Saint☆Young Men

HIKARU NAKAMURA

FOREWORD

By Sam Humphries

This is a story about the human condition. Yes, I am fully aware that the book in your hands is about Jesus and Buddha. But listen—

Saint Young Men is my first exposure to Hikaru Nakamura's work, and it is brilliant. Buddha and Jesus are two young men, roommates and pals, living and exploring modern-day Japan. As far as high concepts go, this one reaches up to the highest heaven.

Yes, she's packed this book with religious references and Easter eggs, and to me the most sacred type of humor: puns. The physical comedy and facial expressions will make you literally LOL. She knows when to hit you with laughs, and when to dazzle you with a beautiful image, which more often than not, delivers an emotional punch.

But to me, her most stunning talent is characterization. When your characters are Jesus and Buddha, that's a tightrope walk in any century!

There's plenty of jokes, sure. But the lion's share of humor is character-based. In my opinion that's the best kind of humor. A punchline is one thing. But when a character says something that's only funny when it comes out of their mouth? That's the good stuff. You laugh, and you find yourself connected to the characters. The jokes illuminate who they are. You relate to them on a human level.

And yes, Nakamura-sensei does this with Jesus and Buddha. These are titanic religious figures whose shadows stretch across human civilization, but in the end, you think of them...well, as pals.

In this sense, Nakamura-sensei is in the tradition of Monty Python and Phoebe Waller-Bridge. Over in Canada, she is in harmony with Denys Arcand's film, *Jesus of Montreal*. Here in America, I think of the comic *Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary* by Justin Green, or the musical *Godspell*.

To relate to Buddha and Jesus as humans is to enrich their holy power. Were they not, according to their own tradition, once regular dudes among their people? Despite their celestial provenance, did they not face hard choices that strike to the heart of what it is to be human? In a parable, psalm, or comic book, to walk by their side is to exalt them.

In that sense, Nakamura-sensei might have found allies in spiritual figures like Martin Luther King, Jr., or Mister Rogers. When we can comprehend the divine as more human, we get closer to discovering the divine in ourselves.

Watching Buddha and Jesus struggle as roommates, we embrace the struggles in our own lives. Seeing them wonder at modern-day Japan, we may be stupefied by astonishment at our own world. And laughing at them, we can laugh at ourselves.

That, my friends, is how *Saint Young Men* is a story about the human condition. But don't let all my lofty blathering fool you: it's also funny as hell. Enjoy.

Los Angeles, California
April 2020

くっちゃ CRUNCH
くっちゃ CRUNCH
ごくん GULP
UGH...

MY TOOTH HURTS...
WHEW, YOU SCARED ME. I THOUGHT YOU'D HIT YOUR REBELLIOUS PHASE.
SORRY. I CAN'T EAT RIGHT NOW UNLESS I HOLD MY HEAD AT AN ANGLE...

ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU HAVE A CAVITY?
NO, I THINK THIS IS A DEVIL'S DOING...
ズズゥ SLRRP
Want me to make something softer?
...SINCE I'VE NEVER HAD A CAVITY BEFORE NOW.

TO THINK THEY WOULD LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON MY BACK TEETH...
...THIS DEVIL MUST NOT VALUE HIS LIFE.
OH, IT'S YOUR BACK TEETH?
THEN MAYBE IT REALLY ISN'T A CAVITY.

MAYBE IT'S A WISDOM TOOTH. IN JAPAN, THEY SAY THEY DON'T KNOW THE PARENTS OF...
OH, OF COURSE! IN THAT CASE!

SAINT YOUNG MEN
Chapter 37
Wisdumb Teeth
I JUST NEED TO GIVE THAT DEVIL SOME WISDOM...
LET HIM KNOW THAT MY DAD IS THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD!!
WELL, THAT *DOES* SOUND LIKE ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE THREATS EVER...
*BUT I WAS TRYING TO SAY THE **TOOTH** DOESN'T KNOW YOUR PARENTS, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T COME IN UNTIL AROUND THE TIME YOU LEAVE HOME.*

THERE'S USUALLY ONE ON EACH CORNER OF THE MOUTH, FOR A TOTAL OF FOUR.

I HAVE THEM, TOO...

Is this because I came down to Earth?

I SEE. SO THEY CALL THEM "IGNORANT OF PARENTS" IN JAPAN BECAUSE THEY COME IN AFTER YOU'VE LEFT HOME...

NOW? AFTER 21 CENTU-RIES?

A NEW TOOTH?

I GUESS WHEN YOU RENOUNCE THE WHOLE WORLD, YOU GET THAT MANY MORE TEETH THAT ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH YOUR FORMER LIFE...

ニコッ GRIN

...BUT OF COURSE, *I* HAVE *16* WISDOM TEETH...

NNGH, BUT OUR INSURANCE WON'T COVER IT...

THAT'S OKAY. IT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH, SO WE HAVE SOME WIGGLE ROOM.

WE'D HAVE TO GO TO A DENTIST.

HMM, I DON'T REALLY KNOW, EITHER ...

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

NNNGH, I'M SORRY, BUDDHA!

IT'S OKAY, JUST BRUSH YOUR TEETH FIRST.

SO THEN LET'S GO RIGHT NOW.

I SEE. SO IT'S NOT A BAD THING.

THAT WAS MY FAVORITE ASPECT OF THAT MAKE-OVER THE HEAVENLY OFFICE GAVE ME.

I HAVE A WEAK STOMACH, SO THEY REALLY HELP WITH MY DIGES-TION.

BUT WHY ARE MINE HURTING?

IF I'M GONNA BE SHOWING THEM TO THE DENTIST,

I SHOULD MAKE THEM SPARKLE EVEN MORE THAN USUAL, HUH?

WANT TO USE SOME TOOTH-PASTE?

NO, THAT'S OKAY. I USE SOMETHING ELSE TO PREVENT CAVITIES.

NOTHING BEATS THE BLOOD FROM MY GUMS, AFTER ALL.

GRIN

OH YEAH, YOUR BLOOD EVEN HEALED LONGINUS-SAN'S EYES.

BESIDES, THAT STUFF MAKES MY TEETH ALL DRAFTY. I DON'T LIKE IT...

YOU KNOW, I HEAR THEY HAVE, LIKE, STRAWBERRY FLAVORED TOOTH-PASTE.

Oh yeah, you hate mint.

WHAT? NO WAY! I MIGHT LIKE THAT!!

AND I SAW ELECTRONIC TOOTH-BRUSHES AT THE ELEC-TRONICS STORE...

PEOPLE ARE REALLY DESPERATE TO PROTECT THEIR TEETH.

WOW...

TEETH REALLY *ARE* IMPOR-TANT.

YOU'LL STILL WANT TO BE ABLE TO EAT DELICIOUS FOOD WHEN YOU'RE OLD AND DECREPIT!

UH-HUH!

AND YOU'D WANT TO KEEP AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, TOO.

THERE WILL BE LESS SQUAB-BLING!

THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS! We have to divide them into eight equal parts, obviously!

He died on our land, so they're all ours!

There's no way I'm giving up the finger bones!

SO, WHEN EVERY-THING IS ULTI-MATELY DIVIDED UP,

Aaaahh! I got here too late!

Now only the ashes are left!!! I underestimated Buddha-sama's popularity!!

UH, NO, BUDDHA.

...BUT IT MADE ME THINK THAT IF THEY WANT PARTS OF ME THAT BADLY, I SHOULD HAVE SAVED MY BABY TEETH!

I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY, THE SKULL WOULD BE THE MOST HIGHLY SOUGHT-AFTER...

IT WAS SO BAD, THE HEAVENLY OFFICE WAS GRUMBLING, "WE SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED AT SIXTEEN. WE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM A HUNDRED."

YOU'RE ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD HAVE A SEPARATE MAUSOLEUM BUILT FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL BONE.

SO I THINK WE CAN FIND ONE SOMEWHERE AROUND THERE...

WELL, I ALWAYS SEE A BUNCH ON THE WAY TO THE STATION...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND A DENTIST?

JESUS'S SHIRT: PIETÀ, BUDDHA'S SHIRT: EIGHT EQUAL PARTS

BUT IF THERE ARE SO MANY, HOW DO WE KNOW WHICH ONE TO CHOOSE?

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

Dental Clinic

OH, LOOK! WE ALREADY FOUND ONE!

OOOHH, REALLY ?!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE IT!!

IT'S *SUPER* STAR QUAL-ITY!!

REALLY! LOOK, THERE IN THE WAITING ROOM...

B-DMP

It looks really old...

B-DMP

JESUS, LET'S GO WITH THIS ONE!

BAM

WHEW

ALL RIGHT! I'LL GO CHECK OUT THE INSIDE.

WELL, YOU CAN'T JUDGE A STORE FROM ITS FRONT, AFTER ALL...

REALLY ?

Wait here!

THANKS, BUDDHA!

YOU CHOSE BASED ON THEIR WAITING ROOM MANGA?!

Taluluto and Tar-chan and Yuyu Hakusho and Otokojuku.

Slam Dunk and The Adventure of Dai.

Dragonball and Jojo.

THESE OLD ISSUES OF *JUMP!*

MAGAZINE: JUMP

OH!

Y-YES, MA'AM!

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME WITH US?

I don't know where to start reading.

NO, BUT ... LOOK AT THIS LINE-UP!!

BUDDHA: WHEN HE HEARS SENDAI, HE THINKS OF DATE MASAMUNE. HE WAS SUCH A SNAPPY DRESSER, THEY NAMED STYLISH-NESS AFTER HIM.

WHAT'S WRONG, JESUS? IT'S OKAY. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO TORTURE YOU!

...YOU CAN'T MAKE ME TALK!

BUT OH WELL... IT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD PLACE...

WHEW

Y-YES, MA'AM.

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND WAIT RIGHT OVER THERE.

ガリガリ CRUNCH

SEI-SAN? THIS WAY, PLEASE.

ギィィィ

IN USE

Time for a Checkup! TOOTH EXAMINATION

NOW, FIRST WE'LL NEED TO GET SOME X-RAY PICTURES.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

OKAY... THEN I'LL COME WITH YOU.

I SHALL GRANT YOU A SEAT AT MY RIGHT HAND!

WILL... WILL YOU COME WITH ME, BUDDHA?

OH, STAND HERE AND BITE THIS, PLEASE.

UH...ALL RIGHT...

S-SO HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO POSE?

THERE'S EVEN A COSTUME ?!

IF YOU'LL JUST PUT THIS ON...

P-PIC-TURES? WHY PICTURES ...?

THERE, ALL DONE.

BEEP

HE'S SMILING LIKE HE'S IN A KIT-KAT COMMERCIAL.

WHRRRR

...YES. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE X-RAY...

THIS HERE IS YOUR WISDOM TOOTH.

THESE ARE THE X-RAYS WE TOOK OF YOUR MOUTH.

BUT WHY PICTURES?

OKAY, IF YOU'LL JUST LOOK AT THIS SCREEN, SEI-SAN.

B-DMP

B-DMP

TH...THAT WAS KIND OF AWE-SOME ... I THINK THEY TOOK PICTURES OF ME IN 360 DE-GREES...

MEMENTO MORI... RIGHT?

REMEMBER THAT I, TOO, WILL DIE...

...AND IT MIGHT HAPPEN DURING THIS TREATMENT... IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

NO, I NEVER SAID ANYTHING OF THE SORT!

SO THEN YOU'RE TELLING ME TO EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY...?

Take Care of Your Teeth

NO, ACTUALLY, I WANT YOU TO *REFRAIN* FROM EATING FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR AFTER THE PROCEDURE.

...EXTRACT IT?! YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE IT OUT?!

AND... AND CUT INTO...?!

YES. YOU SHOULD GET IT EXTRACTED TODAY IF YOU CAN...

CAN... CAN YOU HANDLE THIS, JESUS? SHOULD WE GO HOME?

...NO. I-I CAN DO IT...

I...I'LL HANG IN THERE...

HE'S A GROWN MAN... WHY IS HE BEING SUCH A BABY?

BUT...

IT'S COMING IN AT A SHARP ANGLE,

SO I'M GOING TO NEED TO CUT INTO YOUR GUMS TO EXTRACT IT.

WHAT? NO WAY! THERE WON'T BE ANY PAIN?!

O-OH YEAH. THEY DO HAVE THOSE THINGS NOW!!

WAS HE REALLY ABOUT TO DO THIS WITH NO ANAESTHETIC?!

I'M SORRY IF I PASS OUT FROM THE PAIN...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I'LL CARRY YOU HOME!

NO, SIR, I'LL BE USING ANES-THETIC!

A-ALL RIGHT, FIRST I'LL NUMB YOUR MOUTH...

OOHH... HE'S GOING TO GIVE YOU A SHOT INSIDE YOUR MOUTH...

Dental Health

YEAH. RIGHT NOW, I COULD BE SMITTEN ON THE RIGHT CHEEK ANY NUMBER OF TIMES AND I'D NEVER KNOW.

HA HA HA. BUT THEN YOU'D NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK.

OH! AND WITH MY FACE LIKE THIS...

NO WAY! I CAN'T FEEL IT AT ALL!

THAT'S INCRED-IBLE...

GRG GRG GRG

IF ONLY THEY'D HAD THIS BACK IN YOUR DAY...

SO... IS IT WORK-ING?

WELL... IT'S KIND OF TINGLY, BUT...

POKE POKE POKE

I AM POKING YOU SO HARD RIGHT NOW...

...WHEN JUDAS BETRAYED ME!

I WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN...

WELL, YOU KNOW, HE WAS SO SORRY, THE REMORSE JUST KILLED HIM.

I'M JUST... I'M REALLY SURPRISED YOU'VE FORGIVEN JUDAS-SAN...

OH, YOU KNOW, WHEN HE GAVE THEM THE KISS SIGNAL. IT WAS ON MY RIGHT CHEEK—THE ONE THAT'S NUMB RIGHT NOW.

YEAH. NO, I GET THAT PART.

HUSH シン...

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S OUT OF REMORSE ?!

...HE INSISTS ON BLOWING ME A KISS FROM A DISTANCE...

It's kind of sad...

I GUESS HE STILL THINKS HE DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO KISS ME ANYMORE.

EVEN WHEN THE OTHER APOSTLES ARE KISSING ME...

YOU CAN DO IT, JESUS!

YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO CUT ME...?

RAISE YOUR LEFT HAND IF IT HURTS, OKAY?

ALL RIGHT, NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE THE INCISION...

I'M HOLDING A SCALPEL... I NEVER DID LIKE EXTRACTIONS THAT INVOLVED INCISIONS...

BUT THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH A BLADE...

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DID SURVIVE A WHIPPING ...

WHOOSH

!! OH NO! WHAT IF—

ACK! JESUS, WHAT'S WRONG?!

IS EVERY-THING OKAY, DOCTOR? JESUS IS...

...IS HE OKAY? I DON'T KNOW.

...THAT SPEAR CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE LATER. SOMETHING ABOUT WHOEVER GAINS POSSESSION OF IT CAN BEND THE WORLD TO HIS WILL...

AND IF I'M REMEM-BERING RIGHT...

...HM?

OH, WAIT. I GUESS IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME...

LONGINUS-KUN STABBED ME WITH A SPEAR THAT ONE TIME...

...WELL, THERE'S NOTHING TO IT BUT TO DO IT!

Yah!

WAAAHH! SUDDENLY HE'S TALKING LIKE A CERTAIN FAMOUS UNLICENSED DOCTOR!

YOU ARE WILLING TO PAY?

THAT DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH...

R-RIGHT!

YOU! DON'T JUST SIT THERE! WE NEED SUCTION!

IT'S ALREADY BECOME THE SCALPEL OF LONGINUS ...

IT... IT'S TOO LATE ...

...

OHO... I SEE...

WH-WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!

HEH... THEN I AM OF USE TO YOU?

YOU ARE INDEED WORTHY TO ASSIST ME...

YOUR SKILLS HAVE SUDDENLY IMPROVED QUITE DRASTI-CALLY.

I'M SO SORRY, MS. DENTAL ASSISTANT. YOU'RE STILL IN TRAINING...

BUT NOW YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH WHAT I'VE TURNED THIS DENTIST INTO.

UGH, IT'S NO USE. NOW IT'S THE DENTAL VAC OF LONGI-NUS!!

...TO SUCK UP THE ENTIRE WORLD!!

I AM THE WOMAN WHO WILL USE THIS DENTAL VAC...

I'M SORRY... ABOVE ALL, BUDDHA, I'M SORRY...

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU TWO?!

HEH HEH. INTEREST-ING... BUT CAN YOU BEAT MY SUTURING SPEED?!

GARG ガ ガ ガ GARG GARG

IF YOU DON'T GET IT TOGETHER, I WILL SUCK ALL THE BLOOD OUT OF HIS BODY!

NOW THERE ARE TWO MORE HOLY RELICS TO WREAK HAVOC IN THE WORLD...

YEAH... I MEAN, I GOT TOP-NOTCH TREATMENT THANKS TO IT, BUT...

My precious...

That was so scary...

I SEE... SO YOUR BLOOD DID THAT...

COME BACK IN A WEEK TO GET THOSE STITCHES OUT.

YOU FORGOT SOME-THING...

SWISH

CATCH

?

A-ANYWAY, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE MORE GREAT DENTISTS IN THE WORLD!

...BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEIR PERSONALITIES CHANGED LIKE THAT.

...YOUR OLD FRIEND.

NO, IT WAS DEFINITELY YOUR BLOOD THAT DID THAT.

WHAT A RELIEF!

OH, MAN.

OH, NO, I'VE BEEN SLEEPING.

I'VE BEEN GETTING RAPHAEL TO COME OVER!

DOES THIS MEAN YOU HAVEN'T REALLY SLEPT FOR...

I ALWAYS GO TO BED BEFORE YOU...SO I NEVER REALIZED.

I'D BEEN FIGHTING THAT TOOTHACHE FOR DAYS...

...NOW I CAN FINALLY GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

...BUT THAT'S NOT WHY HE CAME OVER.

NO, I MEAN, THINKING ABOUT IT, HE COULDN'T HAVE HEALED IT ANYWAY, SINCE IT WASN'T A CAVITY...

HUH? YOU GOT RAPHAEL-SAN TO HEAL YOU...?

WHAT? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING?

OH YEAH, YOU TOLD ME YOU ASKED HIM TO DO THAT THE DAY BEFORE WE STARTED OUR VACATION HERE.

HE CAN GET A GRADE SCHOOLER TO SLEEP IN THREE SECONDS ON THE NIGHT BEFORE A FIELD TRIP.

IT WAS SO I COULD USE HIS LAP AS A PILLOW.

OH, COME TO THINK OF IT...

OH RIGHT, YOU DON'T GIVE YOURS OUT.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?

BY THE WAY, THEY GAVE ME THE TOOTH THEY EXTRACTED...

SORRY !!

B-BUT YOU JUST THREW IT STRAIGHT INTO THE AIR, SO...

WHAT?! I DON'T WANT MY WISDOM TOOTH TO GROW BACK...

OKAY, LET'S DO IT!

EXOTIC JAPAN!

AH!

SWOOSH—

NO! IT'S A LUCKY CHARM TO GET THEM TO GROW BACK!!

...I HEARD THAT IN JAPAN, THEY THROW THEIR TEETH ONTO A ROOF OR SOMETHING...

WOW! THAT SOUNDS KIND OF FUN!

FWAH

WAIT. IT'S NOT COMING DOWN...

...WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE CATCH IT, THEN THROW IT INTO THE BUSHES...

8等分

...THEY'RE TAKING IT TO HEAVEN...

OH NO...

YEAH, I GUESS SO...

IN THAT CASE...

It's abnormally large.

IT MUST HAVE MADE IT UP TO YOUR DAD!

I-I THINK YOU'LL BE OKAY ...

OH, LOOK!

DON'T TELL ME I'LL GET 16 LIKE YOU DID...?

WH-WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!

HUH?! WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING? IT WAS FUNNY!

...SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE SUCH A BAD PUN.

WHEN JESUS RE-TURNED HOME, HE DISCOV-ERED HIS OWN TOOTH IN A PLACE OF HONOR IN THE ALCOVE.

YES, IT WAS...

OH! IT'S THE ANES-THETIC!! I CAN'T MOVE MY RIGHT CHEEK!!

BUT YOUR FACE WASN'T LAUGHING AT ALL...

Really, I'm sorry. Something was wrong with me.

...HA HA.

...YOUR TOOTH IS NO LONGER IGNORANT OF YOUR PARENTS...

I'D SAY THAT *TOOTH* GAINED SOME *WISDOM*... EH? EH?

Starting with form over substance. Definitely his blood's influence...
Oh...
I heard he moved to a house on a cliff.
Oh, that dentist?

CHAPTER 37 TRANSLATION NOTES

Healed Longinus-san's eyes,
Sometimes the Romans would help victims of a crucifixion to die sooner by breaking their legs—the shock of which, combined with the exhaustion and pain already experienced, would usually be enough to kill them. They were about to do this to Jesus's legs, but the executioners saw that he appeared to be already dead. To make doubly sure this was the case, a centurion thrust a spear into his side. This centurion's name was not recorded in the Bible, but he later came to be known as Longinus, a name derived from *lonchi*, the Greek word for "spear." Legend has it that Longinus had weak eyesight, and when Jesus's blood fell upon his eyes, he was able to see again.

When everything is divided,
After the Buddha died, there was a dispute over which clan would receive his remains. To appease them all, one Brahmin priest divided the body relics into eight equal portions, and added the Buddha's ashes and the urn that contained them, and distributed them as ten shares. This is also what the "eight equal parts" on Buddha's t-shirt is referring to.

Pietà,
This is an Italian art term referring to a sculpture or other work of art depicting the Virgin Mary cradling the dead body of Jesus.

Date Masamune and zunda mochi,
Date Masamune was a regional ruler in Sendai (northern Japan) from the late 16th to early 17th centuries. He was known for being well dressed, and a man who dresses to impress in Japan is sometimes called a *Datesha*, or "Date person." *Zunda mochi* is *mochi* made with *edamame*.

Memento mori,
This Latin phrase meaning, "Remember death," or, "Remember, you will die," served to help Christians focus on heavenly rewards by reminding them that earthly pleasures and achievements are fleeting.

When Judas betrayed me,
As depicted in this painting by Caravaggio, when Judas led a group armed men to arrest Jesus, he identified their target by giving him a kiss: "Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast." (Matthew 26:48).

The remorse killed him,
After Jesus was condemned, Judas felt sorry about what he had done and tried to return the money he took as payment for betraying his master, and then hanged himself.

When the apostles are kissing me,
In Biblical times, and to this day in some parts of Europe, kissing is used as a greeting.

I did survive a whipping,
According to Roman law, before a criminal was crucified, they were whipped with a scourge—a type of whip consisting of multiple leather thongs attached to a handle.

The Spear of Destiny,
Tradition has it that the Lance of Longinus, or Spear of Destiny, gives its owner the power to bend the world's destiny to his or her will. The spear pictured here is specifically the Vienna Lance, or the Holy Lance in Vienna, and is one of a few that claim to be the actual Lance of Longinus.

A certain famous unlicensed doctor,

The doctor in question is Dr. Kurō Hazama, more commonly known as Black Jack. He is the protagonist of the the Osamu Tezuka manga *Black Jack*. His skills as a surgeon are unmatched, but because he has no medical license, his patients mostly come from the dark underbelly of society. He can save any patient from death, but is extremely expensive to hire.

In the alcove,

"Alcove" is a translation of *tokonoma*, which is a kind of nook built into Japanese rooms to display art and other treasures to be admired.

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

WHEN SOMETHING IS TOO COMPLEX TO BE EXPRESSED IN WORDS...

MUSIC HOLDS GREAT POWER.

OH! A MUSIC STORE!

Regular Concerts

...MUSIC CAN CARRY IT DIRECTLY INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

NO, THAT'S A GUITAR!

HE MUST THINK ALL INSTRUMENTS THAT LOOK LIKE THAT ARE BIWA...

WHAT? NO WAY. IT IS?

OOHH, LOOK AT ALL THE DIFFERENT INSTRU-MENTS...

SEE? IT'S FUN TO TAKE DETOURS SOMETIMES!

WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT. FANCY FINDING ONE HERE...

BUDDHA'S SHIRT: THUS HAVE I HEARD, JESUS'S SHIRT: GOLDEN CALF

OH HEY. THAT LOOKS LIKE THE ONE BENZAITEN CARRIES AROUND.

HUH? YOU MEAN...

HUH? UH. YES. I'M SURE YOU'RE RIGHT...

I WAS SURE IT WAS A MUSIC MAN STINGRAY BASS.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 38

No Music, No Life

BUDDHA: WANTS TO SEE AN OUTDOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL. IT WOULD BE LIKE GOING TO A PICNIC, AND HE'D GET TO HEAR UNFAMILIAR BANDS, SO IT HAS DOUBLE THE VALUE.

WELL, SHE IS THE GODDESS OF MUSIC. SHE LIKES ALL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

WINCE

Of course, she's always with that snake,

so I've never actually gotten close to her.

THAT DOES NOT MATCH MY IMAGE OF HER...

BUT WAIT, BENZAITEN-SAN CARRIES A BASS?!

N-NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I THINK I SAW THAT ON A POSTER FOR ENOSHIMA.

AND SHE'S SO ROCK-N-ROLL, SHE'LL PLAY HER BIWA IN THE NUDE, SO...

She said she thinks she'd get along with Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

JESUS: WANTS TO SEE A LIVE MUSIC CLUB. FEELS LIKE IT WOULD BE REALLY EXCITING TO HAVE THE STAGE SO CLOSE TO EVERYONE.

OH...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVE SEEN ONE OF THEM CARRYING A SYNTHESIZER.

AND ALL THE DEVA LADIES ARE ALWAYS PLAYING MUSIC EVERY-WHERE.

THE THING IS...

...NO...I WOULDN'T CALL IT SOOTH-ING...

BUT IT REALLY IS SOOTHING TO GO TO YOUR PLACE, WITH THAT MUSIC PLAYING ALL THE TIME.

BUT *YOU* KNOW A LOT ABOUT MUSICAL INSTRU-MENTS, TOO.

THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME TO ME...

OH, I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH. BUT BENZAITEN ALWAYS COMES TO SHOW ME WHEN SHE BUYS A NEW ONE...

YIKES, YOUR SECRETS ARE LEAKING ALL OVER THE PLACE!

CHAKKA POKO チャカポコ CHAKKA POKO チャカポコ POM PAKKA-LING ポンッポコリン

Yes. That's the important thing.

I don't see him, but I bet something fun happened!

...THAT MUSIC IS THE SOUNDTRACK TO WHATEVER I'M GOING THROUGH AT THE TIME, AND HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT.

MAYBE IT'S ASCETIC TRAINING TO HELP YOU ALWAYS KEEP YOUR MIND EMPTY...

ダーン DAAA-DUM ダーン DAAA-DUM

Aaahh, it's too perfect!

BRAHMA-SAN CAME UP BEHIND ME, AND THE *JAWS* THEME STARTED PLAYING.

IT WAS *SO* AWKWARD THAT ONE TIME...

WHOA, REALLY?!

WHAT!

I'LL EVEN LET YOU TRY THE INSTRU-MENTS.

YOU CAN COME INSIDE IF YOU LIKE.

OH, SEE THAT GUITAR THERE?

YEAH, BUT...

HEY! YOU KNOW ANYTHING HE TELLS US IS GOING TO GO RIGHT OVER OUR HEADS!

IT WOULD BE SO COOL IF *I* COULD PLAY ONE OF THOSE GUITARS...

BUT I'M JEALOUS.

OH! HELLO!

WHAT...? OH! YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S JUST LIKE KURT'S...

KOBAN? LIKE OLD JAPANESE COINS?

IT'S THE MUSTANG, JUST LIKE KURT COBAIN LIKED TO PLAY.

HUH? HUH? WAIT, YOU GUYS!

WHOA! YOU'RE RIGHT!!

WHAT!

AND THIS IS JIMI HENDRIX'S ...

WH-WHAT'S WRONG, BUDDHA? YOU'RE SWEATING ...

DIE... YOUNG...

THREE SUPERSTARS WHO LEFT US FAR TOO SOON...

SERIOUSLY, WHY DO THE GOOD ONES ALWAYS DIE YOUNG?

W-WAIT A MINUTE! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ANY-THING!

OH! AND THOSE ARE BONZO'S DRUMS...

HA HA HA. WELL, THEY *ARE* ALL FAMOUS...

WELL... BECAUSE ALL THREE OF THEM...

AND YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ROCK!

SO HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?

SHE TOLD ME SHE SCOUTED THEM FROM EARTH... TO JOIN HER BAND.

Siddhartha, I found a brilliant musician.

...WERE WITH BEN-ZAITEN-SAN.

JUST LAST YEAR, TOO... SO MANY BIG NAME MUSICIANS, DROPPING LIKE FLIES.

...IT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME...

SCOUTED ...?

YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS!! IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE!!

...BENZAITEN-SAN...SAID SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE A BIG MUSIC FESTIVAL IN THE HEAVENS THIS YEAR...

HIGAN MUSIC FESTI

I MEAN, I KNOW THAT'S JUST LIFE, BUT IT'S STILL DEPRESSING.

IT DID SEEM LIKE WE WERE ABOUT TO STUMBLE ON A DARK INDUSTRY SECRET...

AHHH, THAT FREAKED ME OUT...

THMP

THMP

COME AGAIN SOME-TIME!

UH, YEAH...

SHE HAS PLAYED IN A BAND BEFORE, BUT THEY BROKE UP.

...IS A RECENT THING.

BUT THAT MEANS BENZAITEN-SAN'S ROCK BAND...

THAT'S TRUE.

EVEN THE ARCHANGELS HAD THEIR IN-FIGHTING.

PERFORMERS HAVE A REALLY HARD TIME COMPROMISING THEIR VISION.

MICHAEL IS JUST SO OBSESSED WITH HIS BROTHER...

AND BECAUSE OF LUCIFER'S INFLUENCE...

YEAH...

WHAT? EVEN THE ARCHAN-GELS?!

If I can't carry it while I play, it's not taiko.

I think you'd sound better with this.

...WHEN SHE TRIED TO GET RAIJIN-SAN TO PLAY A SNARE DRUM INSTEAD OF THE JAPANESE TAIKO.

THINGS FELL APART ...

Tens of thousands of fans were screaming at Benzaiten to apologize...

OH. ARTISTIC DIFFER-ENCES...

YEAH, I WOULDN'T WANT TO HEAR AN ANGEL'S DEATH GROWL.

COUGH COUGH

HAAALLE-LUJAAAAH!

...HE STARTED TALKING ABOUT SINGING DEATH METAL...

YEAH, I'M ACTUALLY MORE SURPRISED THAT RAPHAEL-SAN LISTENS TO TECHNO.

...SAID HE WANTED TO DO TECHNO REMIXES OF GREGORIAN CHANTS...

AND THEN RA-PHAEL ...

EH HEH HEH. WELL, I *HAVE* ALWAYS ENJOYED SINGING.

WHAT? REALLY?

I REALLY LIKE YOUR SINGING VOICE.

I TRY NOT TO BOTHER THE NEIGHBORS TOO MUCH, TOO.

YEAH, SINCE WE'RE IN AN APART-MENT.

BUT IT'S SAD THAT I CAN'T SING TOO LOUD...

OH, YEAH, YOU SING A LOT, TOO, DON'T YOU, JESUS?

BUT THEIR VOICES ARE BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH THE WAY THEY ARE...

こよせがもん

金の子牛

OH! IN THAT CASE.

AH, BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG. I'D LOVE TO RECITE A SUTRA NICE AND LOUD.

Han-nya ha-ra-mi-ta-ji...

NO, I THINK THAT WOULD BOTHER THE NEIGHBORS EVEN MORE!

THAT'S WHY I'VE MADE IT A POINT TO KEEP MY LATE-NIGHT SUTRA-HUMMING TO A WHISPER...

THAT'S WHAT THE ARCHANGELS ALWAYS DO WHEN THEY WANT TO SING THEIR HEARTS OUT.

YOU WANNA GO TO KARAOKE?

OH, NO, THE HEAVENS AREN'T SOUNDPROOF.

IN THE HEAVENS, THEY COULD SING AS LOUD AS THEY WANT...

PEOPLE HEAR THEM ON EARTH.

OOOH, I'M GETTING EXCITED!

BUT WAIT. WHY WOULD THE ARCHANGELS HAVE TO GO TO A KARAOKE PLACE?

REALLY? THEN YOU WANNA GO RIGHT NOW?!

OH, GOOD IDEA. LET'S DO IT!

...MORTAL MUSICIANS MISTAKE IT FOR INSPIRA-TION.

AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS ...

THEN THE MORTALS RELEASE THE SONG FIRST...

YEAH...

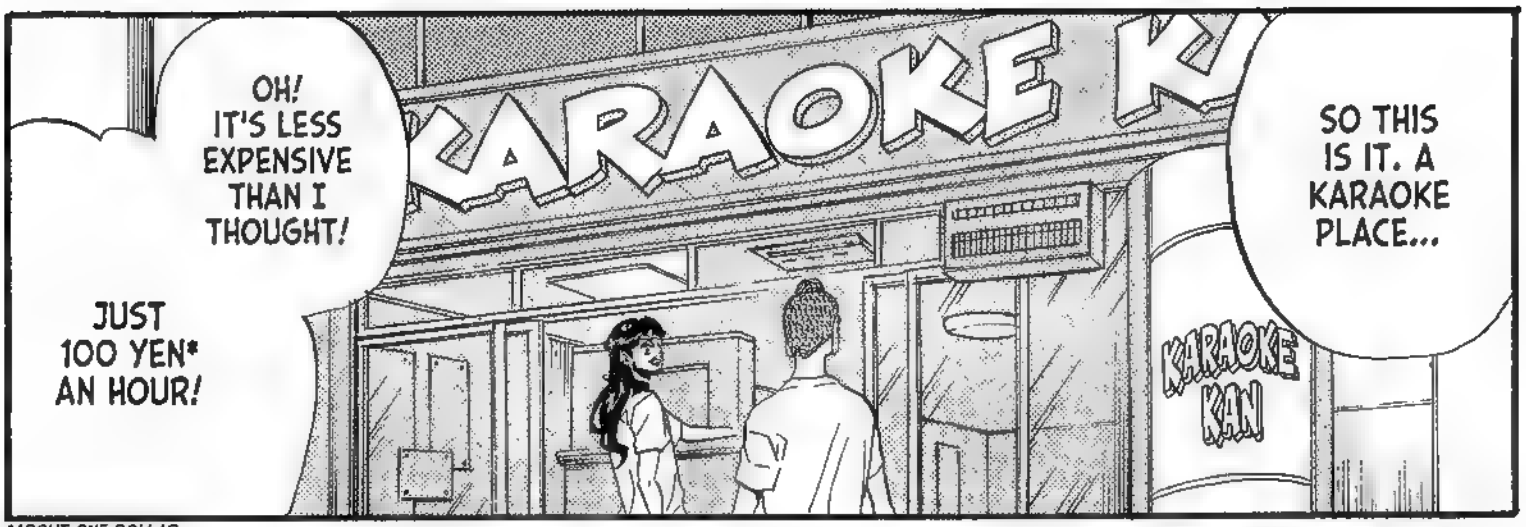
OH, THAT "IT JUST CAME TO ME" BUSINESS.

THEIR GOAL IS TO PERFORM AT SHIBUYA C.C. LEMON HALL.

SO WAIT— THEY *ARE* ACTUALLY TRYING FOR AN EARTHLY DEBUT?

HENCE, KARA-OKE.

AND THAT'S WHY THEY HAVE YET TO MAKE THEIR DEBUT ON EARTH.



*ABOUT ONE DOLLAR

HOW LONG WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY?
HUH? ONE HOUR WILL BE ENOUGH, RIGHT?
OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS ONE. IT HAS "HYPER" IN THE NAME!
WHAT TYPE OF PLAYER WOULD YOU LIKE?

WHAT IF SOMEONE HEARS MY VOICE...
...AND I GET SCOUTED?
Would I end up with three careers...?
OKAY... SO YOU USE THIS MACHINE TO PICK A SONG...

OH, NO, I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE THE HEART SUTRA!

CHECK THE H CATEGORY.

AHH... HE'S REALLY JUST NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON THAT, IS HE?

OH...

THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO SING IT A CAPPELLA...

...

GLANCE キョロ

GLANCE キョロ

FU-SHO-FU-MEEE-TSU.

ニヨせ

KAN-JIIII-ZAI-BO-SATSUUU!

MIC AND...

OH! LET'S TURN UP THE ECHO...

ニヨ。せ。

OOOH, I LIKE IT! THAT ECHO IS AWE-SOME!!

WHOA, THAT'S LOUD!

KA...!

ニヨせがもん

OH! THERE'S A DIAL HERE TO ADJUST THE SETTINGS.

OKAY! WE'RE GETTING TO THE GOOD PART...

MUUU-GENNNN NIIII BI-ZE-SSHIN III...

RUMMAGE RUMMAGE

ゴソ ゴソ

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
MU-MU-
MYO-
YAKU-
MUU-
MUU...
SORRY...
I THOUGHT
I COULD
USE THIS
INSTEAD OF
A WOODEN
FISH...
JESUS,
PLEASE
STOP
THAT.
YEAH. I
JUST PUT IN
"JOY TO THE
WORLD."
YOU SING
SOMETHING,
TOO,
JESUS!
BEE-
BEEP
AAHH,
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I LOVE
ABOUT
HOLDING
A MIC!
OH! I HAVE
TO DECIDE
WHAT I'M
GOING TO
SING.
♪
Han-nyaaaa
haaa-raaa
mii-taaaraaa
BOSE
HEY,
THERE'S
A LOT OF
HYMNS IN
HERE...
IS THIS
THE
DEVIL'S
DOING?!
GRR...
THIS IS
EXACTLY
WHAT THEY
MEAN BY
"A MOTH
TO THE
FLAME"!!
FLASH
FLASH
WHAT
?!
FZH
IT'S
ABOUT
TO START
...
?!

I'VE NEVER HEARD A HYMN IN SUCH A ROCK-N-ROLL STYLE...

JOOOY TO THE WOOORLD! THE LOORD!

I'LL SHOW THEM THAT THE POWER OF HYMNS IS NOTHING TO BE SNEEZED AT!!

OH, NO, IT'S NOT HIM. THESE SPECIAL EFFECTS WERE HAPPENING IN EVERY ROOM.

GRR... CONFOUND YOU, LUCIFER! YOU STILL REFUSE TO RETURN OUR LIGHT?!

WHAT? WHY?

'CAUSE THEN WE'D GET ANGELS INSTEAD?

OH, BUT JESUS... MAYBE YOU SHOULD ...

...SING SOMETHING OTHER THAN HYMNS.

HA HA! DON'T WORRY!

WHAT? REALLY?! I WAS SURE IT WAS THE DEVIL...

I DON'T THINK THE DEVIL WOULD WANT TO GET ANYWHERE NEAR A ROOM WHERE PEOPLE ARE CHANTING SUTRAS AND SINGING HYMNS.

THEY'RE A LITTLE CHEAP-LOOKING, SO I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF FUNNY.

NO, THEY PLAY KARAOKE VIDEOS ON THE SCREEN, RIGHT?

-Strangely old-looking actress
-Incomprehensible story

...THE MORE IT LOOKS LIKE A HOLLYWOOD FILM.

AND HEAV'N AND NATURE SING, AND HEAV'N AND NATURE SING

BUT THE MORE *YOU* SING...

THERE'S THIS SONG MATSUDA-SAN IS ALWAYS SINGING IN THE GARDEN ...

OH, YEAH.

ARE THERE ANY MORE RECENT SONGS YOU COULD SING?

COOL, WHAT IS IT? I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR IT.

AND I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED GOOD, SO I LEARNED IT.

NO WAIT, JESUS, IF YOU SING THAT...

TRA LA LAN LA

SFF

OH...

TRA LA LA LAAAA LA-LAAA LA-LAAA

...THIS SONG?

AND THAT ACTRESS JUST TURNED INTO ANGELINA JOLIE...

AND HEAV'N AND HEAV'N AND NATURE SI...

WHAT DO I DO? IF THE UNITED AFTERLIFE ALLIANCE SENDS US A BILL FOR THAT, WE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO PAY IT.

IT WILL BY LIKE SINGING AN AVE MARIA!!

IF *YOU* SING "MY DEAR MOTHER" ...

MOTHER... MY DEAR MOTHER...

THEN I'LL PUT IN "BANRI NO KAWA"!!

AND I'LL SING CHAGE'S PART!

OH... OH NO! THEN WHAT *CAN* I SING...?

UGH, LOOK AT THAT! IN THE VIDEO, SHINICHI MORI CHANGED INTO PAUL NEWMAN!

UH, YOUR TIME IS UP IN TEN MINUTES...

BRRRRING

I'LL I'LL I'LL I'LL

AND SO...

...THEY FOUND THEMSELVES TRAPPED BY THE CURSE OF "I REMEMBERED A SONG I WANT TO SING RIGHT BEFORE OUR TIME RAN OUT" FOR THREE HOURS.

YAH~ YAH YAH~ YAH~ YAH YAH~

WE'D LIKE TO EXTEND IT...

DUN DUN DUUUN
プァンプァンプァ～♪
KARAOKE SCORE
46
POINTS
So it's true what they say. Even the original singer can't get 100 points...
Huh?
They checked and it turned out the Heart Sutra was an option, so...

CHAPTER 38 TRANSLATION NOTES

Thus have I heard,
This is a common translation of the phrase that appears at the beginning of all Buddhist sutras.

Golden Calf,
Soon after Moses led the Jewish people out of Egypt, he went into Mt. Sinai to commune with God and receive the law. Because he was gone so long, the Israelites, desiring a god to follow, convinced the prophet's brother Aaron to make an idol for them to worship. He melted down all their golden earrings and made a statue of a young cow.

Benzaiten,
Benzaiten originated as the goddess Saraswati in South Asia, however evolved over time to be part of the Buddhist pantheon in East Asia as the goddess of everything that flows, including water, time, and music. She is often depicted holding a *biwa* (a traditional Japanese lute), and her messenger is a snake.

Biwa in the nude,
During the Kamakura Period, Benzaiten was often sculpted in the nude. Shown here is the *Hadaka Benzaiten* (Naked Benzaiten) found in Enoshima. Flea is the bassist of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, who famously performed at Woodstock 1999 in the nude.

Higan Music Festival,
Higan literally means “the other shore” or "the far shore" specifically referring to the Far Shore of the Sanzu River—the river that separates the living from the dead.

Raijin,
Raijin is the Japanese god of thunder, lightning, and storms. As such, he is often depicted making thunder by beating on the Japanese taiko drum.

Gregorian chants,
Gregorian chant is religious music used in the Catholic Church, named after Pope Gregory I. It is sung in unison, without accompaniment.

Shibuya C.C. Lemon Hall,
Shibuya C.C. Lemon Hall, originally known as Shibuya Public Hall, is a theater that was first opened during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and has since hosted concerts for several famous performers. It was renamed to Shibuya C.C. Lemon Hall in 2006 to promote the C.C. Lemon beverage produced by the hall's sponsor, Suntory. It is now under new management from Amuse, Inc. and the LINE Corporation, and has been renamed again to LINE CUBE SHIBUYA.

Karaoke Kan,
Karaoke Kan is a chain of karaoke shops, also known as karaoke boxes, which is building consisting of several private rooms, in which one can sing karaoke without having to perform for complete strangers. While renting one of these rooms, it is also possible to rent costumes and props, and to order food and drinks. The different rooms will be equipped with different karaoke players, which will have different song selections. The machines will also grade the singer's performance, giving them a score when the song is done.

Wooden fish,
A wooden fish, or Chinese wooden temple block, is a wooden percussion instrument that is used in to keep rhythm while chanting sutras. It is a hollow instrument that is struck with a mallet and can either be round, or shaped like a fish.

My Dear Mother,
This is the English translation of the title of the song “Ofukuro-san,” by the Japanese musician Shinichi Mori (born 1947), about how he will never forget his mother. "Ave Maria" is Latin for “Hail Mary,” and is a prayer to the Virgin Mary. The prayer has been put to music by many different composers. Paul Newman is a legendary actor who lived from 1925 to 2008.

Banri no Kawa,
“*Banri no Kawa* (Thousand-Mile River)” is the first hit by pop duo Chage & Aska.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

...AND HEALED HIS FATHER TOBIT'S INJURED EYES.

RAPHAEL ASSISTED TOBIAS ON HIS JOURNEY TO FIND A CURE FOR BLINDNESS...

DO YOU HAVE PLANS FOR *YOUR* SUMMER VACATION?!

CAMPA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | NEW ZEALAND | FINLAND | HAWAII | SWEDEN | AUSTRIA

FOR THIS, HE IS SEEN AS A PATRON OF TRAVELERS.

WOW, LOOK AT THIS ISLAND. IT'S SO PRETTY.

YEAH, IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED ...

YOU ACTUALLY TOOK ONE?

NEW CALEDONIA

OH, THANKS...

HELLO! WOULD YOU LIKE A PAMPHLET?

HUH?

"THE FARTHEST PLACE FROM HEA..."

"THE FARTHEST PLACE FROM HELL.

THE FARTHEST PLACE FROM HELL

HEAVEN

JOIN RAPHAEL FOR A SIX-DAY, FIVE-NIGHT TOUR

OH! LOOK AT THIS ONE, TOO.

HEY, THAT'S A SLICK SLOGAN.

"THE ISLAND CLOSEST TO HEAVEN, NEW CALEDONIA!"

New Caledonia

IF YOU GO DURING OBON...

...THEN IT'S ACTUALLY THE OFF-SEASON IN HEAVEN.

TRAVEL GATE

PAIGN!!

HAWAII

When your heart is weary from mortality, why not let an archangel care for it?

If you're luck

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 39

You Really Ought to Give Heaven a Try!

BUDDHA: SUMMER IS ALL ABOUT FIREWORKS. LAUNCHING FIREWORKS IS NICE, TOO, BUT SPARKLERS ARE HARD TO PASS UP.

DID I SURPRISE YOU?!

TA-DAH!! I HAVE DESCEND-ED!!

JESUS: SUMMER IS ALL ABOUT SHAVED ICE. HIS FAVORITE FLAVOR IS WATER-MELON, BUT THEY DON'T SELL IT MANY PLACES.

OH, I'M SORRY, COULD YOU KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN? I'M INCOGNITO!

JUST A... SHOULD YOU REALLY BE HANDING THIS STUFF OUT TO PEOPLE?

WHA— RAPHAEL-SAN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

SHIRT: LUMBINI

THEN WORD MIGHT GET AROUND ABOUT HOW MUCH FUN IT IS BEYOND THIS REALM ...

AND I WANT THEM TO CHECK OUT THE AFTERLIFE, SEE HOW THEY LIKE IT...

BUT THERE ARE SPIRITS THAT JUST KEEP HAUNTING THE SAME PLACE,

OH, SO YOU'RE HANDING THESE OUT TO SPIRITS?

IF THEY KNOW IT'S ME, THE SPIRITS WILL GET SCARED, AND THEY WON'T TAKE ANY PAMPHLETS.

UH, YES. I ONLY GIVE OUT THE NEW CALEDONIA ONES TO THE LIVING.

OH, NO, WE'VE ALWAYS DONE TOURS.

WHAT A GROUND-BREAKING IDEA!

I SEE. IT'S TRUE, SOME ARE NERVOUS ABOUT PASSING ON...

OH, THAT MUST BE WHAT THE MORTALS CALL A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE.

N-now, now! No waving!

And here we are! We can't go to the other side.

BUT WE'D HAVE TO STOP AT THE SANZU RIVER BECAUSE OF VISA ISSUES...

I WANT THEM TO BE MORE LIGHT-HEARTED! MORE EXCITED ABOUT GOING TO THEIR ETERNAL REST!

YES, AND BECAUSE OF IT, PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN THIS IDEA THAT ONCE YOU CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE, IT'S OVER.

SO? HOW'S IT GOING? DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET ENOUGH PEOPLE FOR YOUR HEAVEN TOUR?

HMMM... I HAVEN'T HAD TROUBLE GETTING PEOPLE TO TAKE THE PAMPHLETS.

YOU CAN DO IT, RAPHAEL-SAN!

THEN YOU HAVE MY FULL SUP-PORT!

THANK YOU FOR THE ENCOURAGE-MENT!

I THINK THAT'S A PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE FIRST STEP TOWARDS REPENTANCE!

"I WANT TO SEE THE SIGHTS IN HEAVEN" ...

WOW RAPHAEL-SAN, YOU'RE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS!

EH HEH HEH. I WORKED HARD ON IT.

BUT THIS PAMPHLET IS REALLY WELL MADE.

YEAH. IT EVEN MAKES *ME* WANT TO GO SIGHT-SEEING THERE!

HUSHHH

Who's ready to go to Heaven?!!

BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE, THEY START TO BACK OUT...

HMM, THOSE GHOSTS NEVER WANT TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILIAR HAUNTS.

RAPHAEL: ONE OF THE FOUR ARCH-ANGELS. SUMMER IS ALL ABOUT THE COOL EVENINGS. HE'S HAPPY IF HE SPOTS A FIREFLY.

OH, NO, WE PUBLISHED A GUIDEBOOK TO THE HEAVENS A LONG TIME AGO.

Afterlife Map

Pass through the Pearly Gates!

Heavens LULLUPM

Meet Sandalphon, the world's tallest angel!

I THINK YOU COULD GENERATE SOME MORE INTEREST.

IF YOU MADE A FULL-ON GUIDEBOOK THIS GOOD,

SHIRT: LUKE

OOOHH!

I GIVE THEM OUT FOR FREE TO ANYONE WHO COMES BACK AFTER SEEING OUR FLIER.

OH! YOU CAN HAVE ONE, TOO!

UNITED AFTERLIFE ALLIANCE

NO, WE ASKED SOMEONE ELSE TO MAKE THOSE.

BUT THE GUIDEBOOK WE HAVE IS A VERY HOT ITEM.

OH, WAS IT BY THE SAME PEOPLE WHO DID THE *MORTAL REALM WALKER* SERIES?

I used that a lot.

THE DIVINE COMEDY SERIES!

LONELY HEAVENS: ODYSSEY WITH DANTE-KUN!

UH, YEAH...

is just so, so cute!!

And Beatrice-chan

I MEAN, IT'S NOT TOTALLY NON-FICTION...

YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE TRAVELING RIGHT ALONG WITH DANTE-KUN AND BEATRICE-CHAN...

IF VOLUME ONE IS ABOUT HELL, NEWCOMERS ARE BOUND TO FEEL HESITANT.

WHY?!

I THINK THAT GUIDEBOOK IS THE REASON EVERYONE HAS SECOND THOUGHTS.

BUT I THINK IT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

HMM, HE'S REALLY FIGHTING AN UPHILL BATTLE.

Please take a pamphlet!

I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY GOTTEN A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR SIDE OF THINGS.

IT REALLY IS FUN TO LOOK AT THIS PAMPHLET.

...HUH?

BUT IT SURE IS PRETTY.

ESPECIALLY THESE PEARLY GATES. I REALLY WANT TO SEE THAT.

OH, NO...

THE FARTHEST PLACE FROM HELL

HEAVEN

JOIN FOR FIVE-

RIGHT. AND REALLY, YOU COME TO VISIT ME MORE THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

OH, YEAH. BECAUSE HEAVEN AND THE PURE LAND ARE TECHNICALLY SEPARATED.

EVEN SO, NOBODY USUALLY TRAVELS FROM ONE TO THE OTHER.

I MEAN, THEY'RE ABOUT AS SEPARATE AS USALAND AND USALAND SEA, BUT...

THE PEARLY GATES?!

Three Most Disappointing Tourist Spots in the Heavens

① The hole where Buddha dangled the Spider's Thread

② The site of the last battle in the War in Heaven

③ Pearly Gates

...IT'S ONE OF THE THREE MOST DISAPPOINTING TOURIST SPOTS IN THE HEAVENS, SO YOU CAN SKIP IT...

WHAT! YOU MEAN THAT'S WHERE PETER-SAN AND ANDREW-SAN ARE ALWAYS HANGING OUT?!

AND THAT THE RECEPTION DESK AT THE FRONT REALLY RUINS THE EFFECT.

EVERY-ONE SAYS THEY EX-PECTED THEM TO BE BIGGER.

SO MANY DREAMS OF ADVENTURE, RUINED!

GLEAM

GLEAM

...SO IT LOOKS LIKE A BRAND NEW BUILDING.

...THEY'VE DONE MAJOR RENOVA-TIONS ON IT RECENT-LY...

YUP, THAT'S HOW EVERYBODY REACTS.

AWWWW, *THAT'S* IT?

AND AS FOR THE PALACE DOWN HERE...

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE. I DO SEE A LOT OF NEWCOMERS WALKING AROUND WITH BOTTLES OF KETCHUP.

People with earthly palates always say there's something missing...

YEAH, BUT WE PRIORITIZE THE FLAVOR OF THE INGREDIENTS, SO WE DON'T USE A LOT OF SEASONING...

OH! I KNOW, WHAT ABOUT THE FOOD?

MAN, WE JUST HAVEN'T PUT ENOUGH THOUGHT INTO TOURISM.

ALL THE PRODUCE IN THE HEAVENS IS TOP QUALITY, RIGHT?

BUT IF WE'RE TALK-ING ABOUT FOOD, THE STUFF FROM YOUR PLACE IS PERFECT FOR TOURISTS.

PEOPLE WITH UNSO-PHISTICATED PALATES JUST CAN'T TELL HOW GOOD IT IS...

BUT IN HEAVEN, YOU ALL USE THEM TO FEED EACH OTHER, SO YOU'RE ALWAYS FULL...

IN HELL, THE CHOPSTICKS ARE SO LONG THAT YOU CAN'T GET THEM TO YOUR MOUTH, SO YOU'RE ALWAYS HUNGRY.

YOU EAT WITH THOSE REALLY SUPER LONG CHOPSTICKS, RIGHT?!

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE SAME ONES IN BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL.

OH, THAT...

I WAS SO MOVED THE FIRST TIME I SAW THAT.

THAT'S ONLY FOR THE TOURISTS.

You know what to do!

We have a guest coming from Jesus's place tomorrow.

Yes, sir!

YEAH, WE DON'T ACTUALLY DO THAT ANYMORE.

IT'S KIND OF LIKE A PARTY GAME, AND PEOPLE DO HAVE FUN WITH IT, BUT...

THESE DAYS, WE ONLY GET THEM OUT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS.

HE MADE THE SAME FACE AS WHEN HE LEARNED THERE ARE NO MORE NINJAS.

I'M... SORRY. REALLY.

I GUESS...

YEAH...

I'VE BEEN PUTTING A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO THIS...

The Divine Comedy
Inferno
Dante

Look

THE FARTHEST PLACE FROM HELL

HEAVEN

JOIN RAPHAEL FOR A SIX-DAY, TOUR

BUT YOU KNOW...

When y... why n...

ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING OUR SIDE COULD DO IT, TOO.

OH, WOW. YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT OUR TOURISM PROBLEM. THANKS, BUDDHA.

SO I'M THINKING ...

BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO END UP STUCK IN ONE PLACE AS GHOSTS CAN'T EXACTLY GO TO *HEAVEN*, YOU KNOW?

IT DOES HAVE "ABANDON HOPE" OR WHATEVER WRITTEN ON THE FRONT DOOR.

OH, THAT'S TRUE.

PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY MORE SCARED OF IT BECAUSE THEY ONLY HAVE A *VAGUE* IDEA OF WHAT IT'S LIKE.

BUT SINCE THEY MIGHT NOT MAKE IT INTO HEAVEN...

...WHAT IF WE SHOWED THEM HELL INSTEAD?

HE WAS SO WEIGHED DOWN WITH THE GUILT FROM BETRAYING ME,

HE DIDN'T THINK HE'D FIND ANYBODY THAT HE COULD OPEN UP TO ABOUT IT...

BUT JUDAS LIVED IN HELL FOR A WHILE...

AND HE SAID...

HE GOT TO BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH THEM, AND THEY LISTENED TO HIS PROBLEMS.

I've heard the line, "Et tu, Brute?" so many times now, it totally gives me Gestaltzerfall!!

What we did really was stupid!!!

Oh man, I get it! I totally know the feeling!!

BUT HE MET A COUPLE OF GUYS—BRUTUS AND CASSIUS—IN THE LOWEST CIRCLE, WHERE TRAITORS GO.

YEAH, BUT HE DOESN'T ACTUALLY CHEW ON THEM THAT LONG.

THE THREE OF THEM ARE THE ONES IN HELL THAT LUCIFER IS ALWAYS CHEWING ON, RIGHT?

I KNOW, RIGHT? OH! BUT IF IT'S FOR TOUR-ISTS...

BUT THAT'S A GOOD IDEA—A HELL TOUR. LIKE LOOKING AT IT FROM THE OTHER SIDE!

Let's tell Raphael!

NIRVANA

CRUNCH

HE MOSTLY JUST CHEWS ON THEM FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER MEALS.

CRUNCH

CHOMP

OH. SO HE JUST USES THEM LIKE THAT TOOTH-CLEANING GUM THEY GIVE TO DOGS?

He's super sorry!

I dunno...

HE'S BEEN GOING TO CAESAR'S PLACE EVERY SO OFTEN TO ASK HIM TO FORGIVE BRUTUS.

SINCE THOSE INDUL-GENCES GOT HIM OUT OF HELL,

THE FLOWER OF FRIENDSHIP CAN BLOOM ANYWHERE...

...SECURITY.

I GUESS THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH THAT WOULD BE...

YEAH, WELL. THEY DON'T CALL IT *HELL* FOR NOTHING.

THIS GOES WAY BEYOND "DON'T TRUST STRANGERS."

THAT'S THAT REALLY CLUNKY CHARIOT, THE CHERUB-THRONE TAG-TEAM DEAL, RIGHT?

YOUR DAD'S CAR...

I CAN BORROW MY DAD'S CAR FOR THEM TO USE...

If he doesn't have plans to go out that day, I'm sure...

THAT WOULD LEAVE AN IMPRESSION.

SEEING LUCIFER-SAN AT HIS REAL SIZE IN HELL...

THAT COULD BE GOOD...

BUT A CAR LIKE THAT COULD TAKE THEM ALL THE WAY TO THE LOWEST CIRCLE TO SEE LUCIFER!

OH! IN THAT CASE...

I DON'T KNOW IF RAPHAEL-SAN WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE A TOUR ALL ON HIS OWN...

WHAT IF THEY JUST NEVER GET OUT OF THE CAR?

...THAT WOULD BE A UNIQUE EXPERI-ENCE.

IF THEY COULD SEE IT UP CLOSE FROM THE SAFETY OF A CAR...

It's really, really,

really, really Lucifer.

COME SEE DEVILS LOUNGING IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.

YEAH...

It's so scary! What do we do? Hell's ☆ Cocytus!

We're getting too close! What do we do?

ACTUALLY... IT'S A LOT LIKE A SAFARI PARK.

HEH HEH. THAT DOESN'T SOUND VERY CONVINCING COMING FROM A COUPLE OF GUYS WHO CAME DOWN TO EARTH FOR THEIR VACATION.

BUT I'M SURE THEY'D LIKE IT IF THEY JUST GAVE IT A TRY...

HMM, THIS IS NOT EASY...

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE BEEN BACK THERE...

LOOKING AT THESE PICTURES OF HEAVEN... I'M STARTING TO MISS IT.

THE FARTHEST HELL

WHAT?!

GABRIEL-SAN DID GIVE US SOME TRAVEL MONEY, AFTER ALL...

AND IT *IS* OBON. SO DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK HOME FOR A LITTLE WHILE?

NO, THAT'S OKAY, WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!

THAT REMINDS ME, I WAS FORCED TO GO HOME WHEN I CAUGHT THAT COLD...

I GUESS THEY'RE CHANGING LITTLE THINGS HERE AND THERE.

WHOA, WHAT THE? THEY SET UP A SOUVENIR SHOP AT THE PEARLY GATES...

HEY, JESUS...WE DID WANT TO GIVE RAPHAEL-SAN OUR IDEAS.

BUT JESUS REALLY HASN'T BEEN BACK EVEN ONCE.

...FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN TO DRAW NEAR TO ME.

I'M JUST GONNA WAIT...

AND IF I HAD TO PICK...

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WILL GET HERE AUTOMATICALLY AT THE END OF THE WORLD, SO...

THE TRAVEL MONEY FROM GABRIEL WILL BE SLEEPING IN THAT DRAWER A WHILE LONGER.

WHATEVER YOU DO... NEVER, EVER SAY THAT TO RAPHAEL-SAN.

...I'D RATHER GO TO NEW CALEDONIA.

So I won't chew on you that long!
I'm a busy man!
It Looks Hot, But It's Actually Not!
Hell Tour
But It Is a Little Hot!
So hot!!
But the lake of blood isn't bad once you get used to it.

CHAPTER 39 TRANSLATION NOTES

Tobias and Tobit,
The Book of Tobit is a book of scripture included in the Catholic Old Testament canon but not the Protestant or Jewish canon. It tells the story of Tobias, or Tobiah, who sets out on a journey to get some money his blind father deposited in Media. He is aided by the angel Raphael in human guise, who helps him accomplish his task, find a cure for his father's blindness, and free his future wife from a demon's curse.

During Obon,
Obon is an important holiday in Japan, so it's a busy time for many domestic tourist attractions.

Lumbini,
Lumbini is a place in Nepal traditionally considered to be where Siddhartha Gautama was born, and as such, it is a Buddhist pilgrimage site.

Luke,
Luke is one of the writers of the Four Gospels of the New Testament, as well as the writer of the Acts of the Apostles.

Lonely Heavens,
The Japanese name Raphael gives his guidebook translates more literally to *Dante-kun's Tear-Jerking Heavenly Travels.* This is a parody of the Japanese documentary show, *Sekai Ururun Teizaiki*, or "*World Tear-Jerking Sojourns.*" *The Divine Comedy* is a narrative poem in which the author, Dante Alighieri, recounts his journey through Hell (*Inferno*), Purgatory (*Purgatorio*), and Heaven (*Paradiso*).

Pearly Gates,
In some Christian denominations, the gateway to Heaven is called the Pearly Gates. This name comes from a verse in Revelation that describes the City of God, stating, "And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl." (Revalations 21:21) The Pearly Gates that Peter and Andrew sit in front of share a design with the golden gates on the Florence Baptistery—the Gates of Paradise, created by Lorenzo Ghiberti. Each panel depicts a scene from the Old Testament.

The palace down here,
This palace is the Cathedral of Syracuse in Sicily, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has been through many changes, including extensive renovations after the Sicily Earthquake in 1693.

The long chopsticks,
This comes from a parable that is taught in cultures around the world. It basically goes as Jesus describes, although when told in Western cultures, the chopsticks become spoons.

Abandon Hope,
According to Dante's *Inferno*, the entrance to Hell is inscribed with the phrase, "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here."

***Et tu, Brute?* and *Gestaltzerfall*,**
"*Et tu, Brute?*" is Latin for, "You, too, Brutus?", and is famously spoken in William Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*, by the character of the same name. Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus were the leaders of a group of senators who attacked and killed the Roman emperor Julius Caesar, and Brutus was Caesar's friend and protege. In Dante's *Inferno*, the two traitors to the emperor join Judas Iscariot in receiving the worst punishment in all of Hell: to be eternally chewed on by Lucifer. *Gestaltzerfall*, German for "shape decomposition," is a phenomenon in which a shape, word, set of letters, etc. is observed so many times that the observer begins to lose the ability to recognize it as anything with meaning.

Don't trust strangers,
The reader may be interested to note that the art in the background here is based off of Gustave Doré's illustration of "Spendthrifts running through the Forest of Suicide," a scene in Dante's *Inferno*.

Cherub-throne tag-team,
The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel had a vision where he saw the chariot of God. It was made of four angels, of the type called "thrones," who linked together to form a sort of box with wheels. These thrones each have four faces—the face of a man, the face of a lion, the face of an eagle, and the face of an ox.

Cocytus safari park,
Specifically, this experience is likened to Fuji Safari Park, which advertised using a song that goes, "It's really, really, really, really a lion." Cocytus is the ninth and lowest circle of hell in Dante's Inferno.

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

IT'S SO PRETTY!!

WOOOWW!

WHOA, LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE!

OOOHH!

HERE WE ARE, EVERYONE. WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE BEACH!

SHIRT: JONAH

UH, YEAH. THEY OPENED THE BEACH FOR SWIMMING AGES AGO.

I MEAN, THE WATER'S OPEN, RIGHT?

THEN I'M REALLY GONNA NEED THESE SNEAKERS.

OH!

PLEASE START IN THE BACK AND DISEMBARK IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.

THIS IS THE BEACH. SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE OFF THOSE SHOES AND WEAR SOME SANDALS?

...HUH? ACTUALLY ...

WAIT A MINUTE. I NEED TO MAKE SURE MY SHOE-LACES STAY TIED.

WHAT? NO.

TUG TUG

UH, NO, THE WATER'S NOT LITERALLY OPEN LIKE WITH MOSES-SAN!

SO I CAN WALK ALL THE WAY TO THE OTHER SHORE!

YO ER

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 40

Innocent Young Beach Boys

BUDDHA: HIS CURRENT AMBITION IS TO EAT AN ENTIRE HONEYDEW MELON.

YEAH... I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING WHEN I NOTICED THE BACKPACK.

AND HERE I THOUGHT HIKING IN SANDALS MUST BE A NEW FORM OF ASCETI-CISM!!

...WHAT?! WE'RE NOT GOING HIKING ON THE SEA-FLOOR?!

SHIRT: DEER PERSON

JESUS: HIS CURRENT AMBITION IS TO COLLECT AND EAT AN ENTIRE BOWL'S WORTH OF ONLY THE COLORED SŌMEN AND/OR HIYAMUGI NOODLES.

THAT MEDICINE YOU GAVE ME REALLY WORKED!!

NO, I'M NOT, THANKS!

OH! RYŪJI-SAN!

ANIKI!

EVERYTHING OKAY? YOU'RE NOT CARSICK?

OH! YES, I COPY!

OUR MAIN OB-JECTIVE, STAR-FISH!!

TOKYO TOWER

WHOOSH

JESUS!

SEASHELL HUNTERS, ROLL OUT!

OF COURSE. YOU ARE PART OF THE NEIGH-BORHOOD, AFTER ALL.

...FOR INVITING US TO ANOTHER NEIGHBOR-HOOD ASSOCIATION EVENT.

REALLY, THANK YOU SO MUCH...

TEP TEP TEP

BESIDES ...

HEY! DON'T RUN STRAIGHT INTO THE OCEAN!

GET BACK IN THE BUS AND GET CHANGED!

I've left every starfish I've gathered in one place! Now you just have to find it!!

HEH HEH HEH...

...AIKO SAID SHE WANTED YOU TWO TO COME.

THANKS FOR BRINGING SOME SWIM TRUNKS FOR ME, TOO.

NO PROBLEM. IT WAS EASIER TO PACK EVERYTHING TOGETHER.

WHEW, YOU'RE A LIFESAVER!

WHAT? REALLY?!

BUT YOU CAN'T SWIM, REMEMBER?

THAT'S OKAY. I WON'T NEED ONE OF THESE IN THE SEA.

OH! YOU BROUGHT A FLOATIE, TOO?

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM TO MAKE SURE HE DOES NOT FALL.

HMMM, YEAH ...

IF YOU SINK AND YOUR STIGMATA OPEN UP, YOU MIGHT ATTRACT SHARKS!

HERE, YOU BETTER BLOW THIS UP!

God Breath You.

KAWEEA

FWOOO

WELL, YEAH, IT DOES HURT WHEN IT GETS IN MY EYES AND STUFF...

Ah, the salty air.

AND SALTWATER IS MORE IRRITATING THAN FRESH-WATER...

NO, THAT'S JUST THE ONE SEA NEAR WHERE YOU GREW UP!

DEAD SEA

BUT YOU CAN'T SINK IN THE SEA, RIGHT? YOU FLOAT SO HIGH, YOU CAN READ A BOOK WHILE YOU'RE IN THE WATER...

WAAAAAHH!!!

SPLASH

SURPRISE ATTACK, OFFICER JESUS!

RYUJI-SAN: IS UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT JESUS IS THE HEIR TO A YAKUZA GANG. HIS CURRENT AMBITION IS GLOBAL DOMINA-TION.

OHHH, YOU GOT ME, OFFICER AIKO!

SPLASH

JESUS? ARE YOU OKAY?

AH HA HA HA

IF HE DIVES FACE-FIRST INTO THE WATER, HE COULD...

JUST A— DON'T DO THAT, AIKO-CHAN!

AAAAAHH!!

SPLAAASH

I-I'M IMPRESSED, JESUS. I DIDN'T THINK THE POOL WAS ENOUGH TO CONQUER YOUR HATRED OF WATER.

HEY! AIKO! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

I-I'M SO SORRY, ANIKI!!

HUH...? JESUS IS SURPRISINGLY OKAY WITH THAT...

Ha ha ha.

I KNOW IT WAS AIKO-CHAN, BUT I WAS SURE HE'D GET MAD ANYWAY...

...A GIANT AQUARIUM.

I'LL PUT ONE PAIR OF EVERY SEA CREATURE IN A GIANT AQUARIUM...

MRK

AH HA HA, JESUS. NOW IT'S NATURE GETTING YOU WITH ITS HIGH WAVES.

I'LL PULL A REVERSE NOAH ON YOU! IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?!

...THEN DRY UP EVERY LAST OUNCE OF WATER IN YOU!

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP TORMENTING PEOPLE?! HUH?!

COME ON... I TOLD YOU BEFORE TO CUT IT OUT WITH THE WAVES AND STUFF...

HUSHHH...

THAT'LL GIVE ME SOME REALLY GOOD SALT...AND I WILL SO ENJOY THE ONIGIRI I MAKE WITH IT.

WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES, HE PROCLAIMED, "THOSE OF US WHO CAN GET MAD, SHOULD GET MAD, AND TEACH THEM A LESSON!"

TH-THAT'S ENOUGH, JESUS. THE WATER'S ALREADY VERY CALM!

BAP

WAAAAH!

BAP

ONLY MORTALS ARE KIND ENOUGH TO LET FORCES OF NATURE GET AWAY WITH STUFF, OKAY?!

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD... I'M GONNA PART YOU, WATERS! TRY IT ONE MORE TIME, AND...!

AAAH, IT'S OKAY! JESUS ISN'T MAD!

WAAAHH! I WON'T PLAY ANY MORE TRICKS ON YOU!!

YEAH. LOOK AT THOSE LOVERS OVER THERE.

REALLY?

NOW, NOW, JESUS. SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY VISIT PLACES BECAUSE OF THE WAVES.

...BE WASHED AWAY BY THE WAVES OF TIME!

...ALL FEELINGS WILL EVENTU-ALLY...

THAT IS A UNIVERSAL TRUTH!

THEIR MESSAGE WRITTEN IN THE SAND...

SEASIDE RESORT

BEACH HOUSE

BLUSH

BLUSH

YAKISOBA

JUST LIKE THAT MESSAGE ...

THE SEA CONVEYS THAT TRUTH WITHOUT USING WORDS...

YEAH. THEIR LOVE IS MERE EROS.

...?!

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?

SANO: I LOVE YOU

HA HA, THAT'S OKAY. I'M TAKING IT EASY TODAY.

BESIDES, I CAN'T SWIM MY HEART OUT.

YOU GO SWIM YOUR HEART OUT.

I'M GONNA TAKE AIKO-CHAN AND GO PLAY IN THE SAND.

UH... NO, NO, JESUS.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST JUMP OVER THEM?

?

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO SWIM OUT AS FAR AS THOSE RED FLOATING THINGS.

OH, NO...

AAAAH! THEY'RE SLEEP-ING, TOO!!

HUH?!

WH-WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU SUD-DENLY ASLEEP?!

ZZZZZ

SLUMP

HUH?

GRIN

CAN'T YOU SEE THE LIFEGAURD RIGHT OVER THERE?

WHAT? OH, I SEE. *THAT'S* WHAT THESE PEOPLE ARE HERE FOR...

Silent Mode

THIS IS... JUST LIKE THE NIGHT I SNEAKED OUT OF THE PALACE...

DON'T TELL ME, KANTHAKA'S ON HIS WAY TO...

GASP

I'VE GRADUATED FROM YOUR CONTROL!

...GET ME...

LET'S JUST GIVE THEM POINTS FOR TRYING.

IS THIS YOUR WAY OF TRYING TO CHANGE WITH THE TIMES? IT'S NOT WORKING!

EKK EKK EKK EKK EKK!!

WE MIGHT FIND OUT IF WE STICK A FIN-GER IN THERE.

HMM, WHAT *IS* IT?

HEY, HEY, JESUS! WHAT'S THIS HOLE?

THAT'S TRUE. I COULDN'T PUT MY HAND IN THE MOUTH OF TRUTH IN ROME, EITHER.

BUT, IT TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE TO STICK YOUR FINGER IN A MYSTERIOUS HOLE.

YEAH. THAT WILL BE FUN, TOO.

NOW GO BACK TO THE SEA!

I WANT TO PLAY ON THE BEACH TODAY!

OKAY. THEN TODAY WE'LL ALL BE SEASHELL HUNTERS!

Ekk ekk ekk.

YEAH, IF HE CAN PUT HIS FINGERS IN YOUR STIGMATA, HE CAN PUT THEM ANY-WHERE.

Uhk!

SHOONK

Here I go!

OF COURSE, MY APOSTLE THOMAS COULD STICK HIS HAND IN HOLES WITH ZERO HESITATION...

YEAH. I WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE PULLED MY EARLOBE THE FIRST TIME WE MET.

Excuse me.

GRNK

Nice to meet...

GRNK?

IF HE SEES A CORD, HE'LL PULL IT. IT'S JUST WHO HE IS.

YEAH.

IF HE SEES A BUTTON, HE'LL PUSH IT.

NO, BUDDHA'S BETTER AT THIS KIND OF THING...

HUH? HUH?

NOW DON'T MOVE, I'M GOING TO BLINDFOLD YOU.

WHAT? NO, I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT.

WHAT? WATER-MELON SMASH?

WATER-MELON!!

AIKO! WE'RE GOING TO PLAY WATER-MELON SMASH!

OH, THEN YOU WANT TO TRY?

WOW, SOUNDS FUN!

IT'S THAT GAME WHERE YOU TRY TO SMASH A WATERMELON WHILE BLINDFOLDED, RIGHT?

JUST HOW MUCH OF THIS PROCESS WERE YOU PLANNING TO DO BLIND-FOLDED?!

I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT CUTTING THINGS INTO EVEN PIECES...

ALLL RIGHT, NOW I'M GONNA SPIN YOU TEN TIMES!

お! 3 FLUSTER

お! 3 FLUSTER

HERE'S THE STICK.

YOU CAN DO IT, JESUS!!

NO, HE'S LYING. IT'S FIVE STEPS TO THE LEFT.

KEEP GOING STRAIGHT AHEAD, ANIKI!

GO? BUT WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO...?

WHIRL

WAH!

WA-WA-WA-WAH!

WHIRL

WHIRL

WHIRL

WHIRL

OKAY, YOU'RE READY! NOW GO!!

SHHH

MY BELOVED SON...

HUH? DAD?!

NNGH, THEY'RE ALL LYING TO ME ... WHO WILL TELL ME THE RIGHT WAY TO GO?

O JESUS. WHEN YOU ARE UNSURE, TAKE THE MIDDLE PATH.

JUST A— WHAT? WHO'S TELLING THE TRUTH?

DON'T JUST THROW OUT RANDOM ADVICE, BUDDHA!

KEEP GOING 45 DEGREES TO THE LEFT, AND FALL FACE-FIRST INTO THE OCEAN.

THAT IS THE ONE TRUE PATH TO STARDOM AND POPULARITY.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

MAKE THE BEACH RESOUND WITH THE THUNDERING OF YOUR FACEPLANT...

N... NO...

GO NOW! DON'T LET THIS CHANCE ESCAPE YOU!

...HE'LL COACH HIM LIKE, "NOW FLUB YOUR LINE!" OR, "SMIRK AT YOUR PARTNER'S STUPIDITY."

EVEN AT LIVE COMEDY SHOWS ...

HIS DAD'S GIVING HIM A CHEAT SHEET AGAIN...?

I DON'T *WANT* YOU TO READ THE ROOM AND GIVE ME THE "BEST ANSWER"!!

DID YOU BRING ONIGIRI, BUDDHA-SAN?

HERE, I MADE SOME OTHER THINGS TO GO WITH IT.

IT'S ESPECIALLY GOOD WHEN YOUR MOUTH'S ALL SALTY, LIKE TODAY.

MMMM, THIS WATER-MELON IS DELI-CIOUS!

HMM, THOSE TWO SURE ARE GOOD FRIENDS...

I LIKE THIS. AND YOU PUT THE NORI ON AFTER?

OH, WHAT GOOD RICE!

RIGHT! SO IT'S NICE AND CRISP!

I USED NOZAWANA FOR THESE, AND THESE ARE UME.

OH, YES I DID.

IF YOU'RE DONE SWIMMING, YOU MIGHT WANNA HIT THE SHOW-ERS NOW BEFORE THEY GET CROWDED.

WHAT? THAT SOON?!

SO WE'RE GOING HOME IN AN HOUR.

WE DON'T WANT TO GET STUCK IN TRAFFIC.

AHH, I'M STUFFED!

MAYBE I'LL TAKE A QUICK NAP IN THE SHADE...

GOOD IDEA. I DON'T FEEL LIKE SWIMMING ANYMORE.

SAY, BUDDHA ...

BUT NOW WE WON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE PUBLIC BATH WHEN WE GET BACK.

SQUEAK

W-WOW. SHOWERS AT THE BEACH...

THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES THE OCEAN ITSELF WAS USED AS A BATH...

YEAH. MUCH MORE OF THIS AND I'LL BE IN DANGER OF GETTING A CHRISTIAN NAME.

So this is the most it can do, huh?

TRICKLE ICKLE ICKLE ICKLE

...I KIND OF FEEL LIKE I'M BEING BAPTIZED ...

BUT IT'S ONLY FIVE. THAT'S PRETTY EARLY TO GO HOME.

THAT'S TRUE.

WE'RE GOING HOME EARLY ENOUGH, WE CAN PROBABLY STILL MAKE IT TO THE BATH-HOUSE.

WELL, IT'S OKAY IF IT'S A LIGHT SHOWER.

'CAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE BROUGHT THEIR KIDS WITH THEM.

YEAH, WE GOT CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC ...

OH, ARE WE STILL IN THE PARKING LOT...?

...HUH? IS IT ME, OR ARE WE NOT MOVING AT ALL?

IT ONLY TOOK ABOUT TWO HOURS TO GET HERE...

I WENT TO EGYPT...

WAS IT SUMMER VACATION?

OH! YOU WENT ON A FAMILY TRIP, TOO, ANIKI? WHERE TO?

GASP

BROUGHT THEIR KIDS ...?

I-I'VE HAD THIS EXPERIENCE BEFORE!

HE ORDERED THAT EVERY CHILD IN THE NATION THAT WAS TWO YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER BE KILLED!

every nail that stands out!!

I will hammer down

KING HEROD WAS SCARED BECAUSE I WAS BORN.

NO, JESUS, I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE ANY-THING THAT GRISLY!

Eww, beard!

COME WITH ME, AIKO-CHAN! I WON'T LET YOU DIE!!

IS "TRAFFIC" THE NAME OF THE KING OF JAPAN...?

Yes!!

Let's go ♪ punch him out ♪ together!!

Let's go, ♪ ri-ight no-ow! We'll go ge-et that guy!

THE CARS CON-TINUED NOT TO MOVE ...

Nice !!

Long enough to reach ♪ you!

I wish at least my hair could ♪ grow,

ALL RIGHT... WE'LL TAKE ON THIS MONAR-CHY TO-GETHER!

NOW, NOW. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO TACKLE TRAFFIC: KARAOKE!

SKFF

ス"ク

AIKO, TOO!

AY AY AY...

DON'T SAY THAT— SO MANY THINGS STARTED BECAUSE OF YOUR BIRTH.

I'M SO SORRY FOR BEING BORN!!

NNGH, ALL THOSE INNOCENT CHILDREN... BECAUSE OF ME...

WAH

THE WESTERN CALENDAR, FOR ONE THING!

NGH... WH- WHAT...? IT'S MORNING ...?

M-MY SKIN HURTS...

NGH...

MRK <...

OH YEAH. WE WERE SO TIRED LAST NIGHT, WE WENT RIGHT TO SLEEP...

W-WAH! MY HAIR IS ALL STIFF!!

HUH? WHAT? WHY?

WELL, BECAUSE, AT A GLANCE, WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU...

YOU... *SUR-PRISED* ME...!

AH!

HA HA HA, YOU ARE *SO* TAN...

WAAHH !!!

BUDDHA LATER SAID TO JESUS, "YOU LOOK INDIAN NOW, TOO!"

WELL, ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN INDIAN THIS WHOLE TIME!

...I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED INDIAN!

Not this again...
POING
わく
POING
わく
POING
わく
Hey Buddha, do I look more like Johnny Depp now?

CHAPTER 40 TRANSLATION NOTES

Jonah,
Jonah was an Old Testament prophet who ran away from God's assignment to preach to the people in Nineveh. The ship he boarded in his escape was caught in a terrible storm, and Jonah advised the sailors to toss him overboard to appease God's wrath. Reluctantly, they did so, and the storm abated. Meanwhile, Jonah was swallowed by a giant fish, which spit him out after three days.

Deer Person,
This specifically refers to Buddha's preference for deer, perhaps in this case in relation to preaching, as Jesus previously wore a shirt that said "Mountain Person," and was known for preaching his most famous sermon on a mountain, while Buddha first preached in Deer Park.

***Eros*,**
Eros is one of four ancient Greco-Christian terms that can be translated as "love." Readers will already be familiar with *agape*, or "selfless love." *Eros* is "passionate love," or "romantic love." The other two terms are *storge*, which is love for family, and *philia*, which is love for friends.

Graduated from their control,
This is a lyric from Yutaka Ozaki's song, "Graduation," where he sings about breaking free of the societal rules he felt were oppressing him.

The Mouth of Truth,
The Mouth of Truth is a marble mask that can be found at the Santa Maria in Cosmedin Church in Rome. The mouth of the mask is open, and legend has it that if one were to stick a hand into the mouth and tell a lie, the mask would bite that hand off. Tourist will line up to get a picture of themselves with their hand inside the mask's mouth.

Watermelon Smash,
This is a common summer game in Japan with a simple objective: to smash a watermelon. The watermelon will be set on a towel on the ground, and the players will take turns being blindfolded and spun around three times. They will then take a wooden stick and try to find and smash the watermelon. Often those watching will offer advice that will lead the player in the right (or wrong) direction. Whoever breaks the watermelon open wins.

The Middle Path,
The Middle Path, or the Middle Way, is a common description for Buddhist teachings in Mahayana Buddhism. It is often described as the middle path which is neither too ascetic nor indulgent. It can also describe Buddhism's philosophy of the non-self (*anatman*), which holds a position about the self between the existence of an eternal soul, and the mere physical body.

***Nozawana* and *ume*,**
Nozawana is a Japanese leafy green and *ume* is a Japanese plum. Both are often eaten pickled.

King Herod,
When the Wise Men came looking for Jesus, they first went to King Herod and asked him where the child was born that would be King of the Jews. Hearing of a potential rival, Herod hoped that the Wise Men would return after finding Jesus and tell him (Herod) where to find the child. When they failed to reappear, Herod decided not to take any chances, and kill every child that might be the one the Wise Men sought—those two years and younger. An angel warned Joseph, Mary's husband, about the Herod's evil plot, and so the family escaped into Egypt.

Karaoke,
The songs performed in this karaoke party are both by Chage and Aska. The first one is “YAH YAH YAH,” which happens to be the same song being sung at the end of “No Music, No Life.” The second is “*Banri no Kawa* (Thousand-Mile River),” Chage and Aska's first hit.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

WHERE THE POSITION OF EACH AND EVERY FIGURE HOLDS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

THE MANDALA— A BEAUTIFUL VISUAL DEPICTION OF THE ARRAY OF BUDDHAS,

THE TIME HAS COME TO SHOW THE FRUITS OF YOUR DAILY TRAINING.

THE DAY OF OUR YEARLY BATTLE IS AT HAND.

I WILL NOW MAKE THE ANNOUNCE-MENT!!

IT IS THE ANNUAL SEASON OF BATTLE ...

AS THE MANDALA DEPICTS, NINE WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

IF YOU ARE CHOSEN, I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

AUTUMN: THE SEASON OF SPORTS.

AAAAHHH

AS MID-FIELDERS!

MAUD-GALYA-YANA... ANANDA...

AS FOR-WARDS!

JAMES AND JOHN!!

Fw

MF

JAMES

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 41

Athletic Failure

BUDDHA: RECITED A FREE VERSE HAIKU. "EVEN WHEN COUGHING, I DO SMILE."

INDEED... IT'S TRUE YOU TWO ARE NOT BUDDHISTS.

WE MADE THE PURE LAND TEAM FOR THEIR TIME-HONORED GAME OF ZENNIS!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN CHOSEN!!

JESUS: ALSO RECITED A FREE VERSE HAIKU. "EVEN PREACHING SERMONS, I AM ALONE."

SAKRA AND I TALKED IT OVER, AND THIS IS OUR DECISION.

BESIDES,

BUT, YOU PRACTICED HARD AND YOU'VE TRULY MASTERED THE GAME OF ZENNIS.

WE'RE GOING TO EARTH?!

WE WISH TO SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT HERE TODAY.

SQUEAK

キュッ…

HA HA HA... IT'S NOTHING.

WHAT?!

I HAVE CONTACTED THAT LEGEND AND ASKED HIM FOR A PRACTICE GAME.

MURMUR

"!" "?"

MURMUR

IMPOS-SIBLE... BUT... THAT WOULD MEAN...

OUR LIVING LEGEND ...!

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE NEVER HAD NON-BUDDHISTS ON THE TEAM BEFORE.

THE VERY SAME.

...YOU CAN CALL US ANY TIME.

ZSH

IF IT MEANS WE CAN HELP OUR JUNIOR TEAM MEMBERS, EVEN NOW WE'RE RETIRED...

TENBU

TENBU

...THEY HAD ALREADY RETIRED FROM THE GAME.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, KŪKAI-KUN. BY THE TIME YOU ATTAINED NIRVANA...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'LL ACTUALLY GET TO SEE THE LEGENDARY TAG TEAM IN ACTION!

THIS... THIS IS INCRED-IBLE!

TENBU

HEY THERE, SONS OF THUNDER!!

I HEARD YOU MADE THE TEAM! CONGRATU-LATIONS!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JESUS-SAMA!!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR TEACHINGS TODAY!

TENBU

I STILL REMEMBER IT LIKE IT WAS YESTER-DAY.

TO THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT AMAZING CLUB-WORK AGAIN!

HM ...?!

OH, NO PROBLEM ...

AND THANK YOU FOR COMING, TOO, BUDDHA-SAMA.

We did!!

You must have worked really hard!

WAIT, YOUR CLUB, ITS...

TENBU

Siddhartha

HA HA... LEGENDARY? YOU'RE EXAGGERATING. IT'S JUST OLD.

THE LEGEND-ARY NYORAI MODEL?!

WOW, IT'S NEW? WAIT...

HUH? NO, IT'S NOT. MINE'S NEW.

HA HA... JESUS'S IS MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN MINE.

See here? That's their old logo.

AMAZING!! THIS CLUB GRACED THE FIELD IN COUNTLESS FAMOUS GAMES...

YEAH, I THINK SO. AND HERE'S THE CLUB.

WOW, THEN THAT DISCIPLE MUST REALLY HAVE BEEN A FAVORITE!

...WHAT?

I TOLD YOU, JESUS GAVE IT TO THE DISCIPLE WHOM HE LOVED!

WHOSE IS THAT ...?

OH, I'M SORRY...

BUT WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR OLD ONE?

WOW... YOU CAN FEEL THE STRESS POUNDED RIGHT INTO IT!!

OH, IT WAS HANDED DOWN TO THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED.

WHOA! IS THAT THE END-OF-THE-CENTURY MODEL ...?

THE YEAR EVERYONE IN THE HEAVENS WAS SO INSANELY BUSY THEY COULDN'T MAKE ANY NEW CLUBS?!

THE ONE LONE CLUB, AN ARTISAN MADE IN A FIT OF ESCAPISM,

...IS HOW MY LITTLE BROTHER REFERS TO HIMSELF.

"THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED" ...

SO THERE WAS NO ONE TO STOP ME.

I WAS THE LAST OF THE APOSTLES TO DIE.

GRIN

OF COURSE, NONE OF US EXPECTED HIM TO KEEP IT UP EVEN WHEN HE WROTE HIS GOSPEL...

TENBU

ANANDA LOOKED AS IF THE SCALES HAD FALLEN FROM HIS EYES.

HISTORI-CALLY, *I'M YOUR FAVORITE!!*

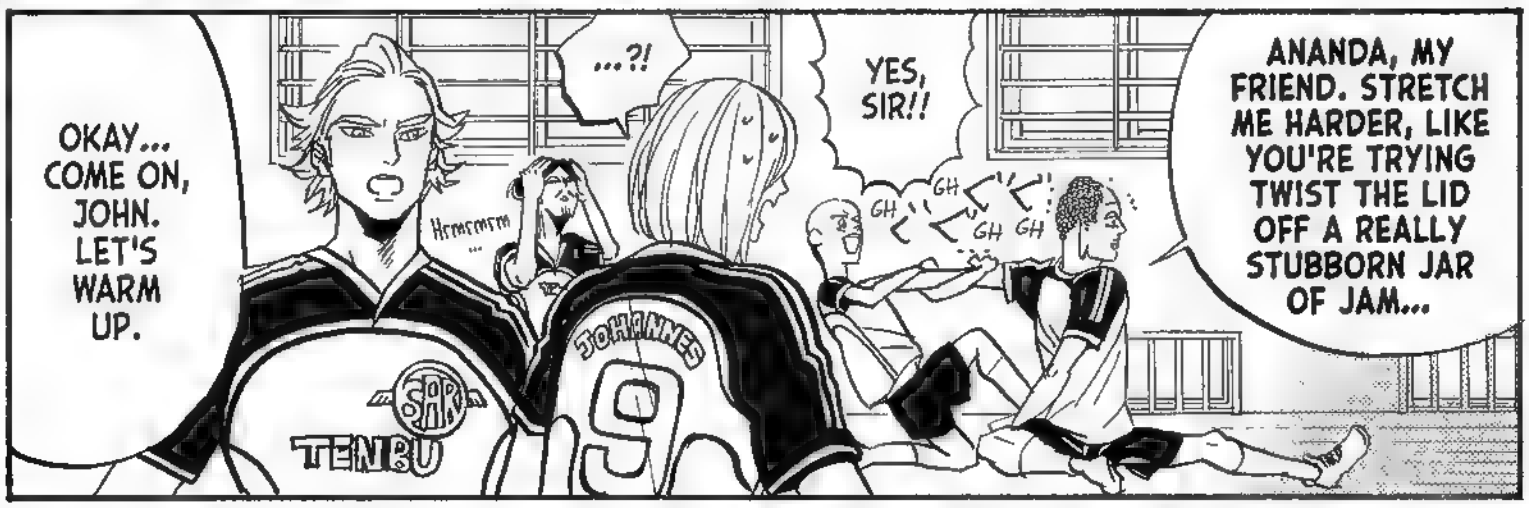
NO, WHOEVER CLAIMS THE TITLE FIRST GETS IT.

...NO, MY LOVE IS AGAPE, SO I DON'T HAVE A *FAVORITE* ...

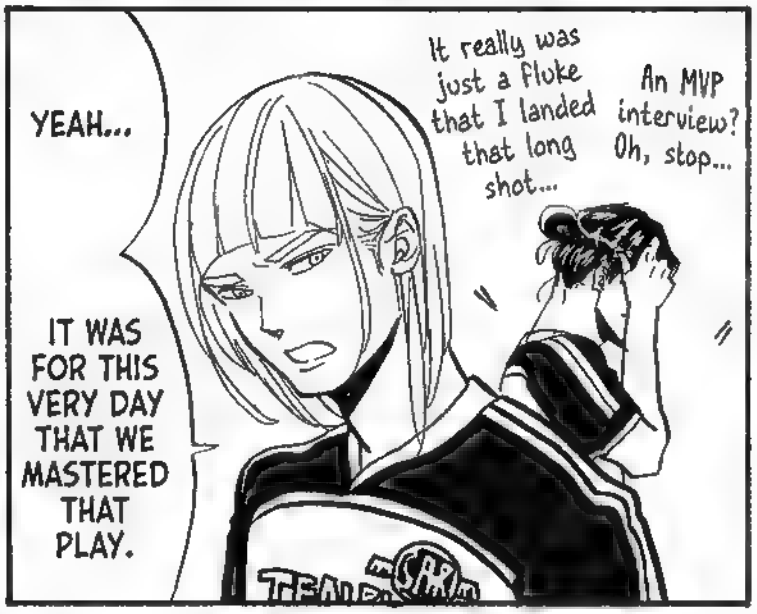
JAMES: ONE OF JESUS'S TWELVE APOSTLES. ALSO KNOWN AS JAMES THE GREATER.

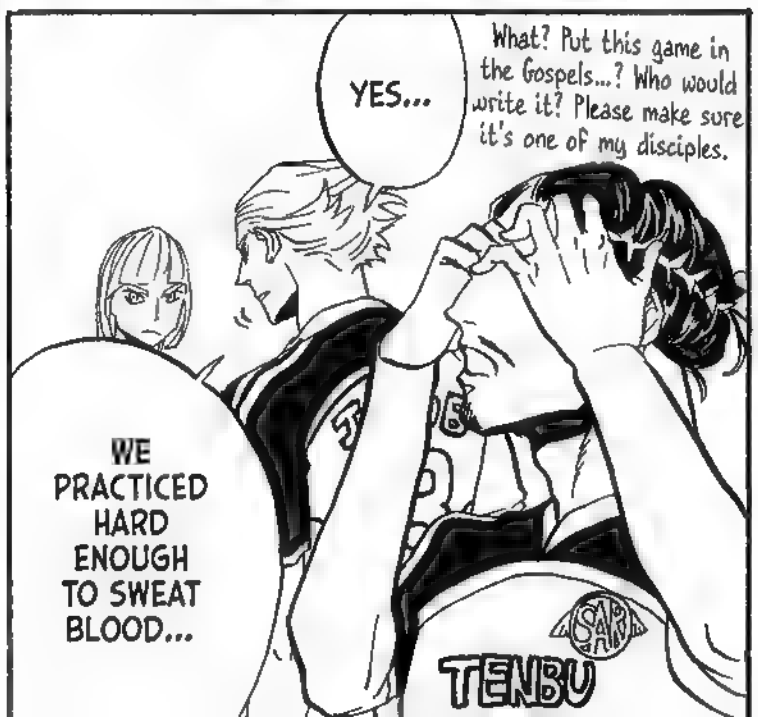
OKAY, THEN I THINK I'LL GO DO SOME IMAGE TRAINING...
NO PROB-LEM!
ANANDA, WOULD YOU MIND HELPING ME STRETCH?
WELL, SHOULD WE START WARMING UP?

JOHN: ONE OF JESUS'S TWELVE APOSTLES AND JAMES'S YOUNGER BROTHER.


OKAY... COME ON, JOHN. LET'S WARM UP.
...?!
YES, SIR!!
GH
ANANDA, MY FRIEND. STRETCH ME HARDER, LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TWIST THE LID OFF A REALLY STUBBORN JAR OF JAM...
TENBU
JOHANNES
9

SO THAT'S JESUS-SAMA'S LEGEND-ARY "SUPER POSITIVE IMAGE TRAIN-ING"!
What? You want to build a church here? Please, don't! Where would the people of Tachikawa exercise?
WE WON'T WIN THIS IF WE STICK TO ORTHODOX METH-ODS...


YEAH...
IT WAS FOR THIS VERY DAY THAT WE MASTERED THAT PLAY.
It really was just a fluke that I landed that long shot...
An MVP interview? Oh, stop...


WE PRACTICED HARD ENOUGH TO SWEAT BLOOD...
YES...
What? Put this game in the Gospels...? Who would write it? Please make sure it's one of my disciples.
TENBU

PLAAAAY GYM-PERMA-NENCE!!!

BUT WITH OUR THUNDER SHOT, I'M SURE...!!

JAMES!! NOW!!

THE GOAL IS WIDE OPEN...

NICE PASS!!

WHOOSH

JOHN-SAN!!

KABOOOOM

STAY CALM...

REMEMBER YOUR TRAINING ...

KER-FWAAAM

WE...

WAH

THAT WAS A BRILLIANT FIRST GOAL!!

WE DID IT! WE SCORED !!

REFEREE, THAT WAS FROM THE RED LINE, SO WE GET THREE POINTS...

...UH, WELL, OKAY!

THREE POINTS, YES? GOT IT!

...WHAT? WAIT, *DID* WE HAVE A RULE LIKE THAT...?

PSST EY PSST EY

...WHAT? I THOUGHT THAT WAS FROM THE YELLOW LINE...

ヒソ PSST

WELL, WHAT *CAN* WE DO?

PSST ポソ PSST

... WHAT DO WE DO?

THEY MADE UP A SPECIAL MOVE AND EVERY-THING...

YEAH ...

I MEAN, IT'S *POSSIBLE* WE WROTE THAT RULE LATE ONE NIGHT LAST YEAR WHEN WE WERE OVER-EXCITED ABOUT THE GAME...

ポソ PSST

That's crazy. Would we make that rule?

ポソ PSST

SCORING FROM THE RED LINE IS PRACTI-CALLY IMPOS-SIBLE...

PSST ポソ

コク NOD

AAAAHH! DON'T FALL TO YOUR KNEES— YOU'LL LOSE TWO POINTS!!

SLUMP!

I CAN'T EVEN!!!

SURELY YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS!

IN THE GAME OF ZENNIS, NATURALLY, NOTHING STAYS THE SAME.

NNGH ...!!

STAND UP, JOHN. WEREN'T YOU GOING TO PROVE TO THE WORLD?

NOW STAND UP!!

THAT IS HOW THIS SPORT WORKS!

IF YOU LOSE HEART, YOU WILL LOSE AN EQUIVA-LENT NUMBER OF POINTS!!

NNGH... BUT...! I'M *SURE* I HEARD IT WHEN THEY EXPLAINED THE RULES LAST YEAR!

NO, YOU CAN BE SURE OF ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

IT'S *NOT* BECAUSE JESUS-SAMA SPOILED YOU!

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE THE ONLY OF THE APOSTLES WHO WASN'T MARTYRED ...

BROTHER ...!!

YOU'RE GOING TO PROVE THAT YOUR HEART IS STRONGER THAN THAT!!

THEN ...

OKAY, JOHN-SAN! LET'S TO THIS!!

I'LL STAY IN THIS TO THE VERY END!!

I *WILL* PROVE IT...

HA HA! I ALWAYS KNEW... THOSE TWO WERE GOOD...

YEAH... BUT WE STUCK WITH IT TO THE END!

WE COULDN'T EVEN PAUSE LONG ENOUGH TO GLANCE AT THE SCORE-BOARD...

BUT AFTER A GAME LIKE THIS...

SO HOW BADLY DID THEY BEAT US?

...WHO WIPED THE FLOOR WITH JOHN AND HIS TEAM-MATES.

GAME OVER!!!

WHIMPER

OH, JOHN... IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, THEN I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU!

THEY FOUGHT AN ALL-OUT, NO-HOLDS-BARRED BATTLE AGAINST THE VETERAN PLAYERS...

I GUESS IT WAS A BAD IDEA TO KEEP SCORE IN SAND DOWN IN THE MORTAL REALM.

Thirty...? Nope, can't read it.

CAN YOU READ THIS?

NO MATTER HOW BIG THEIR LEAD WAS...!!

IN THE HEAVENS, IT MANAGES TO KEEP ITS SHAPE A LITTLE BETTER...

EVERY TIME THE BALL BOUNCED, THE SAND WENT FLYING.

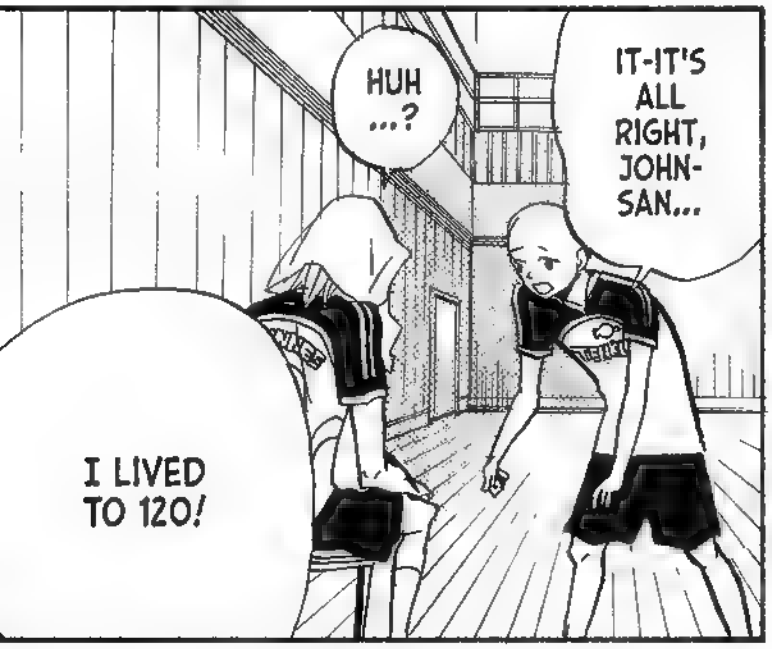
YOU LOSE ONE POINT IF YOU DROP YOUR CLUB.

I REALLY JUST CAN'T EVEN!!

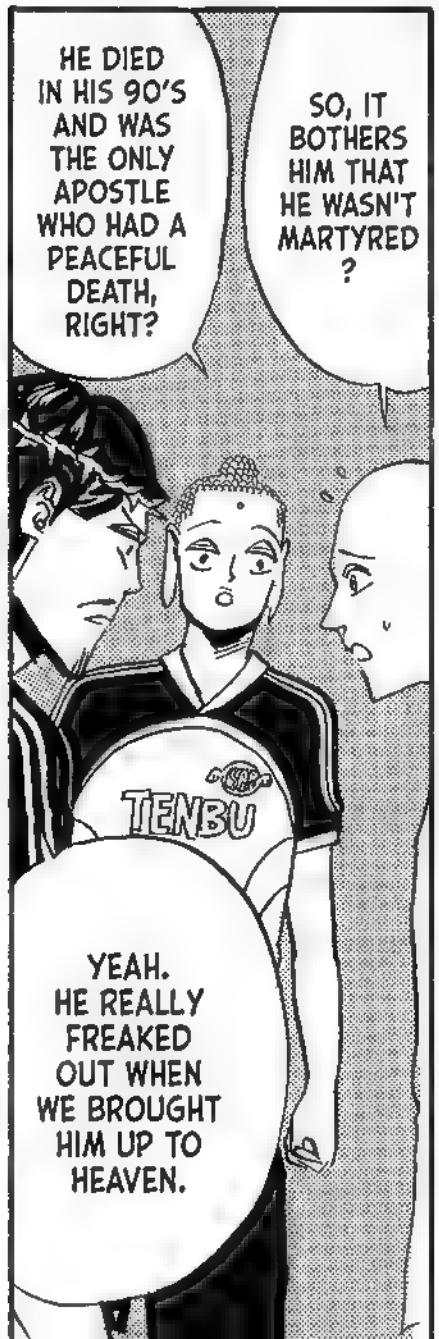
カン カラン CLANG KA-CLANG

...WELL, ANYWAY I THINK THE ALUMNI PROBABLY WON.

DON'T FORGET TO STAY HYDRATED!
CHATTER
TENBU
CHATTER
HEY, I BROUGHT SOME NICE, COLD SWEET TEA.
I HAVEN'T WORKED UP A SWEAT LIKE THIS IN AGES.
YEAH, IT'S PRETTY HOT IN THE GYM.
AHHH, IT'S NICE OUT HERE!


HUH ...?
IT-IT'S ALL RIGHT, JOHN-SAN...
I LIVED TO 120!

I MEAN, TECHNICALLY, I KNEW WHEN I WAS GOING TO DIE.
SO DID I...
R-REAL-LY?!
BUT I JUST DIED OF OLD AGE...
TENBU


HE DIED IN HIS 90'S AND WAS THE ONLY APOSTLE WHO HAD A PEACEFUL DEATH, RIGHT?
SO, IT BOTHERS HIM THAT HE WASN'T MARTYRED ?
TENBU
YEAH. HE REALLY FREAKED OUT WHEN WE BROUGHT HIM UP TO HEAVEN.

WILL JOHN-KUN BE OKAY?
HE'LL BE FINE. HE'S A STRONG KID...

NO FAIR!! THAT'S JUST LIKE IN *DRAGON-BALL!!*

KABOOOOOM

Ananda-samaaaaa!!!

SO AT THE *VERY* END I EXPLODED MYSELF IN THE AIR.

I jumped...

I ONLY DID IT MYSELF BECAUSE I HAD TO—I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE FIGHTING OVER MY BONES.

OH, BUT DOESN'T YOUR FAITH FROWN ON SUICIDE?

THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT!!

What?! I would be honored!!

Um, if you wouldn't mind, can we exchange email addresses?

AWW, THAT'S SO CUTE! THE TWO IDOL DISCIPLES, SIDE BY SIDE.

FRIENDSHIP BLOSSOMS BETWEEN EACH OF OUR YOUNGEST FOLLOWERS...

ANANDA-SAN...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD... LIVING OUT YOUR TWILIGHT YEARS, WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND MASTER GONE...

I'M SURE YOU HAD YOUR FAIR SHARE OF GRIEF AND LONELINESS FROM HAVING LIVED SO LONG.

BOTH OF YOU, STOP THAT! I MEAN IT!

THEY WOULD BE A TEAM WORTH PRODUCING.

Like "WaT!

YOU KNOW... THEY COULD MAKE A GOOD DUO!!

S-SO, HAVE YOU TWO FINISHED YOUR COOL DOWN?

Anyone but those two!

PLEASE STOP...

AND LET'S PAINT THEM GOLD.

WE'LL START BY MAKING THEIR HANDS TWICE AS LONG AS THEY ARE NOW.

HA HA... NOW THAT WE'RE OLDER, IT TAKES TWO OR THREE DAYS, AND THEN SUDDENLY... *BAM.*

TOMORROW, EH? I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND THE SORENESS WOULD HIT THE VERY NEXT DAY.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE'D MOVED AROUND THAT MUCH IN A LONG TIME.

HE SAID WHEN HE FOUGHT THAT BIG WAR IN HEAVEN,

DAD WAS TALKING ABOUT IT, TOO.

AND THE SORENESS FROM THAT...

GOOD POINT. AND WE DO HAVE PRACTICE TOMORROW.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PRACTICE WITH SORE MUSCLES.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

BUT HE'S HONESTLY MORE AFRAID OF THAT THAN OF THE END OF THE WORLD.

...

He's always doing stretches and massaging himself in the bath just in case...

...HAS YET TO STRIKE.

THE PAIN FROM CREATING HEAVEN AND EARTH HIT HIM JUST THE OTHER DAY.

NO, HE SAYS HE STILL GETS SORE FROM OTHER THINGS, SO...

...WOULDN'T THAT MEAN IT'S JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN?

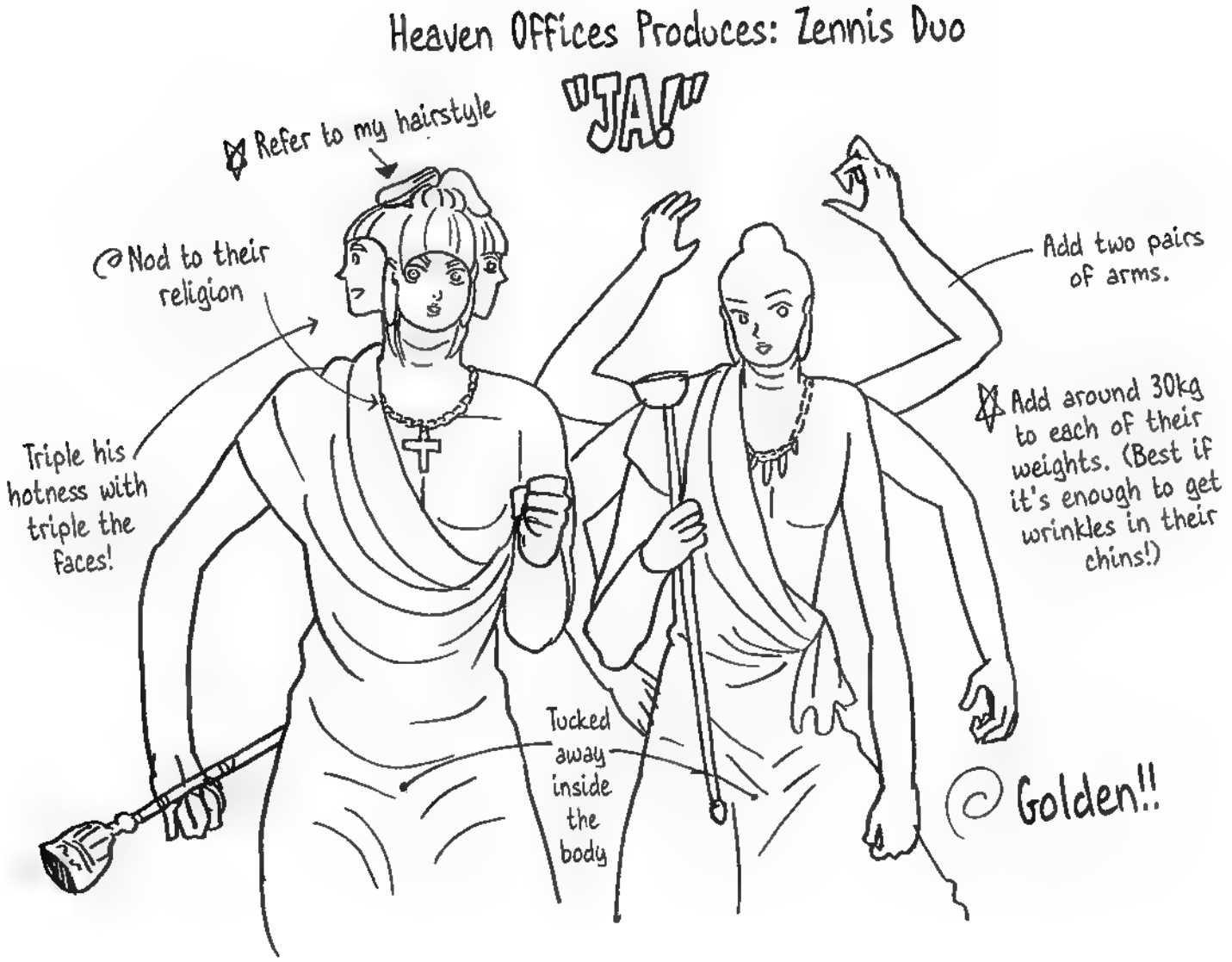
DELAYED MUSCLE PAIN HURTS THE MIND MORE THAN THE BODY.

YEAH. AND YOU STRETCH ME AFTER.

...JESUS... COULD YOU TWIST MY ARM LIKE YOU'RE WRINGING OUT A DUST RAG?

I SEE...

SHHH


Heaven Offices Produces: Zennis Duo
"JA!"
Refer to my hairstyle
Nod to their religion
Triple his hotness with triple the faces!
Add two pairs of arms.
Add around 30kg to each of their weights. (Best if it's enough to get wrinkles in their chins!)
Tucked away inside the body
Golden!!

CHAPTER 41 TRANSLATION NOTES

Mandala,
Mandalas are used in various South Asian religions to show sacred geographies or to visually depict the hierarchies among Buddhas, deities or other holy figures. In Japan, mandalas will often depict a kind of heavenly "court" at which presides an specific set of Buddhas or Bodhisattvas to be called in a ritual or other practice, in their order of importance.

Zennis,
The Japanese name of this game is *Shomujo*, short for *shogyō mujō*, which refers to the impermanence of all things.

SAR Tenbu,
SAR stands for *Sōgō Anoyo Rengō*, which is the Japanese name of the United Afterlife Alliance. Tenbu is the Japanese for Heaven Office.

Kūkai,
Kūkai is the Japanese Buddhist monk who founded the Esoteric Shingon ("true word" or "mantra") school of Buddhism. He lived from 774-835.

Sons of Thunder,
When listing the Twelve Apostles, Mark 3:17 says of James and John, "He [Jesus] surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder." This was likely because of their intense personalities.

The legendary Nyorai model,
Buddha's spoon for this game is based on the Buddhist weapon and ritual object, the vajra. A vajra represents the indestructibility of diamond and the irresistible force of the thunderbolt, and the word refers to a weapon of the gods. *Nyorai* is a word that refers to Buddhas, from the Sanskrit *tathagata*, mean "one thus come," meaning one who has passed into the state of enlightenment. The clubs used by the other athletes are based on the bell that is often seen accompanying the vajra. Jesus's club is modeled after a Tibetan prayer wheel.

The disciple whom Jesus loved,
The Gospel of John never names John the Apostle in its narrative, but uses the phrase "the disciple whom Jesus loved" to describe an unnamed disciple, likely an apostle, several times. The end of the book states that it was the testimony of that beloved disciple, thus pointing to John as the disciple in question. Incidentally, the word used for "loved" is a conjugated form of "agape."

James the Greater,
Jesus had two apostles named James, and to differentiate them, they were sometimes called James the Greater and James the Lesser. In this context, "great" means he was older or taller, not that he was more important. It does not necessarily indicate that he was older than John (only that he was older than that other James), however it is assumed that he was John's older brother because he was always mentioned first.

Jacob and Johannes,
The reader may have noticed that the names on the back of James' and John's jerseys don't exactly match the names that have been used in the dialogue. The names used in the Japanese translation of the New Testament are Yakobu and Yohane, which are more closely related to the names Jacob and Johann. Jacob is an old Hebrew name, which changed as it went from Hebrew, to Greek, to Latin, to French, to English into James, the name that has been used in English translations of the New Testament (which was written in Greek) since as early as the 14th century. Other language editions retain the Hebrew name, as does the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew. Similarly, John is the English version of the Hebrew name Yohanan. The Latin version is Johannes.

The death of John the Apostle,

According to Roman Catholic tradition, John died of old age in Ephesus around AD 100. A church was built on the site believed to be his tomb, but now only ruins of it remain. There are also theories that he did not die, but sleeps underground, making the dust holy with his breath, as well as theories that he was taken up to Heaven without tasting death. He was the only one of the original Twelve Apostles to escape a violent death.

Exploded in midair,

Ananda was traveling at the end of his life, and as his final moments approached, he was met at a river by several different parties who hoped to claim his remains as relics. Realizing that dying on either side of the river would anger the party on the other side, he used his supernatural powers to levitate into the air and cause his body to go up in flames, sending pieces of himself to both sides of the river, thus keeping all parties happy.

WaT,

WaT, short for "Wentz and Teppei," is a Japanese pop duo made up of Eiji Wentz, who is half German-American and half Japanese, and Teppei Koike.

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

AS THE CUSTOM WAS NOT TO LEAVE ANYTHING IN THE WRITTEN WORD.

DURING THE BUD-DHA'S LIFE-TIME, SACRED TEACHINGS IN INDIA WERE ONLY HANDED DOWN ORALLY,

...WILL NOTHING I SAY CONVINCE YOU TO COMPILE A COMPLETE VOLUME?

SIDDHAR-THA...

...ONLY AFTER HIS DEATH.

THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA WERE RECORDED IN WRITING ...

SHIRT: LIFE IS SUFFERING

THEN YOU INSIST THAT *THAT*, TOO, BE CONVEYED ORALLY?

SO I CANNOT ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSI-TION.

EVEN HAVING MY TEACHINGS WRITTEN DOWN AS THEY ARE NOW...

人生は苦

...GOES AGAINST MY WISHES.

THESE DO NOT SOUND LIKE THE WORDS OF A BUDDHA, SIDDHAR-THA.

IT MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE PLOT OF A DEMON, DON'T YOU AGREE?

NEVERTHELESS, IT'S TOO SOON FOR A COMPILED VOLUME OF EYA!!

What? Ha ha... ....?

"Enlighten Yourself, Ananda" is this super funny manga. Ananda takes his ribs and beats the Three Universal Truths...

...Um, never mind...

...TO UNDERTAKE THE EXTREMELY ASCETIC PRACTICE OF TRANSMITTING THE GAGS OF "ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF ANANDA" ORALLY?!!

YOU WOULD FORCE EVERYONE...

人生は苦である

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 42

Crazy Over Comics

BUDDHA: FAVORITE CHART IS A LINE CHART. IT'S AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE CHANGES IN A SITUATION JUST BY LOOKING AT THE RISE AND FALL OF THE LINES.

A WHOLE BOOK OF EYA!!

WOW, BUDDHA, THAT'S SO COOL!!

JESUS: FAVORITE CHART IS A PIE CHART. IT'S AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO TELL PERCENTAGES JUST BY LOOKING AT THE SECTIONS OF A CIRCLE.

AND I BET EVERYONE WILL BE REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR IT!!

IT'S AWESOME! THIS IS SO AWESOME!

I-I'M SORRY. I'M JUST A SMALL-TIME HEAVENLY MANGA ARTIST...

Oh! Is that a manga artist?

WAAAH, NO, NO, NOT SO LOUD!

*AN INFORMATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR SAINTS

ANGELS ARE ON TIME MORE OFTEN BECAUSE OF IT!

YES, REALLY!

...WHAT? R-REALLY?!

THAT'S KIND OF FLATTERING...

Ahhh! I missed the first flight and now it's all gone!!

R2000

R2000* IS REALLY POPULAR.

AND THEY CAN'T GET IT UNLESS THEY'RE THERE RIGHT WHEN JACOB'S LADDER OPENS!

THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO READ IT BUT COULDN'T!

AND THEN SOME ARTISTIC TYPES HAVE TAKEN WHAT THEY'VE HEARD AND DRAWN THEIR OWN VERSION OF IT...

BUT THERE ARE ALREADY PEOPLE WHO HAVE ONLY HEARD THE JOKES OF EYA BY WORD OF MOUTH...

I THINK THAT MAKES IT MORE OF A DERIVATIVE WORK THAN A RETELLING!

I don't remember drawing that story!!

I will gain enlight-enment!

Yes!

BOOOOM

BY THE TIME IT GETS TO MICHAEL, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS.

NO... EVERYONE WANTS TO READ WHERE IT ALL STARTED!

MAYBE THEY DON'T NEED TO READ THE ORIGINAL ANYMORE ...

AND I KINDA THINK THE ART'S BETTER IN THIS ONE...

YEAH, YOU ARE WEIRDLY MEAN IN THAT STORY.

So it did bother him...

THEN THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT ME LIKE THAT IN *JOURNEY TO THE WEST!*

IF MY SCRIPTURES HAD BEEN IN A BOOK, AND HE HAD JUST GONE TO A LOCAL BOOK-STORE,

...SENDS XUANZANG ON ANOTHER EPIC JOURNEY TO THE WEST?

WHAT IF THE QUEST FOR YOUR ORIGINAL 4-PANEL MANGA...

NNNGH! THAT WOULD BE UNBEAR-ABLE!!

SHIRT: ARIMATHEA

OH, NO, I JUST NEED TO DO A LINE DRAWING AND BENZAITEN-SAN WILL DESIGN THE COVER.

Section

OH, I GUESS THAT MEANS I COULD COLOR THE COVER ART...?

IF THERE'S ANY-THING I CAN HELP WITH, I'LL DO IT.

YEAH, THAT'S THE RAIN COVER BENZAITEN-SAN USES FOR HER SNAKE.

It might rain. Let's put on your cover.

SO THE GIANT SNAKESKIN I FOUND ON THE GROUND OUTSIDE OUR PLACE...

YEAH. SHE ACTUALLY CAME OVER TO DISCUSS IT YESTERDAY.

WHAT? BENZAITEN-SAN'S GOING TO DESIGN IT?

OOHH!

MORNING TWO HIT MANGA SERIES

AWWW, I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN IT! WHAT KIND OF DESIGN DID YOU ASK HER FOR?

I-I would have been okay...

BUT I HAD HER COME OVER WHEN YOU WEREN'T HOME, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE SNAKES.

OH! LIKE THE DELUXE EDITION OF *BLACK JACK* WOULD BE PERFECT!

AT A GLANCE, IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A NOVEL...

OKAY, YEAH! I SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT!

NOD NOD NOD

G-GOOD QUESTION... I DON'T NEED IT TO POP— I PREFER IT TO BE MORE SIMPLE.

COLORS, EXAMPLES OF BOOKS WITH DESIGNS YOU LIKE?

I'D LIKE IT TO HAVE A MORE AUSTERE FEEL...

SO BASICALLY I'M THINKING WE WANT TO REALLY MAKE THAT LINE ART POP.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

DO YOU HAVE ANY REQUESTS? ANYTHING AT ALL.

AND WE'LL HAVE AN OPEN MIND AS WE EXAMINE OUR OPTIONS!

WE'LL TAKE IT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND ADAPT AS NECES-SARY.

DOES YOUR HEAVENLY OFFICE HAVE A "STEAM-ROLLER" POLICY?

IN OTHER WORDS, SHE'D ALREADY DECIDED EXACTLY HOW SHE'S GOING TO DO IT.

UH...YEAH. HE DID *WANT* TO DO THAT...

Staff Picks

OH! ARE THEY GONNA PUT A BELLY BAND WITH AN ENDORSE-MENT ON IT?!

HA HA... YEAH, BUT SENSEI HAS ALREADY STARTED HIS NEXT LIFE.

OOHH! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO AWESOME IF YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN AN ENDORSEMENT FROM OSAMU TEZUKA-SENSEI.

If only they could sell it on Earth, too...

AND NOW LOTS MORE PEOPLE CAN READ IT.

BUT I'M SURE IT WILL BE A GREAT DESIGN.

YEAH. AND BRAHMA-SAN SAYS THEY'RE GOING TO GO ALL OUT WITH THE PUBLICITY.

人生は

AN ENDORSE-MENT FROM (THE FORMER) OSAMU TEZUKA?!

"...ENDORSED BY THE FORMER OSAMU TEZUKA'S THE FIRST MANGA I EVER READ."

HE'S A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON NOW, BUT THEY DEMANDED HE WRITE ONE ANYWAY.

SO EVEN BUDDHA CARRIES A GOOD LUCK CHARM...

BUT I WILL KEEP IT WITH ME AS MY GOOD LUCK CHARM...

OF COURSE WE'RE NOT GOING TO USE IT!!

OH, I DEFINITELY THINK YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM.

I MIGHT HAVE AT LEAST HEARD OF SOME-THING THEY WORKED ON...

IS IT ANYBODY I KNOW?

OH!

THEY'RE THE PEOPLE WHO NAME PRODUCTS FOR BIG COMPANIES AND STUFF, RIGHT?!

SO THEY ASKED IF THEY COULD AT LEAST GET A FAMOUS COPYWRITER TO COME UP WITH A TAGLINE...

NO, I TOLD THEM I DON'T WANT ONE.

THEN IT WON'T HAVE A BELLY BAND?

ADAM-SAN, THE MOST FAMOUS COPY-WRITER IN HISTORY.

Just go ahead and name them whatever. All of them.

Whaaa?

Why not?

Uh...cat? Is that okay?

IT'S THE GUY WHO NAMED ALL THE LIVING THINGS WHEN THE WORLD WAS CREATED.

HIS GREATEST WORK IS "WOMAN."

TALK ABOUT A SUPER VETERAN !!

THEY CALL HIM THE "SHIGESATO ITOI OF THE HEAVENS."

人生は

OH, NO, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE POPULAR THERE...

YOU SEE, MARA...

THEY MIGHT RELEASE IT IN HELL, TOO!

WOW, WOW! THIS MIGHT GO BEYOND THE HEAVENS!

UH, I THINK THEY CALL PEOPLE WHO DO THAT "BIG FANS."

Today's EVA was either sssoooooze fest!!! I did not laugh once!!! The "popenpin" thing at the end might have been kinda funny though.

First thing in the morning ...

...HE SENDS ME A BARRAGE OF EMAILS EVERY WEEK TO TELL ME WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

THAT REMINDS ME, THEY FOUND THE ONE BY JUDAS-SAN RECENTLY, HUH!

OH, I SEE.

NO, I MIGHT HAVE COME UP WITH THE *CONCEPT*, BUT MY DISCIPLES *WROTE* IT...

OH, NO, NO, NO. I'M BUTTING INTO HIS PERSONAL AFFAIRS!!

RADICAL STUFF THAT COULD OVERTURN ALL THE PREVIOUSLY KNOWN SCRIPTURES ...

JUDAS HAD A HABIT...

...BUDDHA. WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT BRING THAT UP?

O-OH YEAH, THAT ONE HAD STUFF IN IT...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BUT WOW, A BOOK ... I WISH I COULD GET MY BLOG INTO A BOOK...

R-AME'S RAMEN RAMBLINGS

FROM THE POPULAR BLOGGER!

My blogger friend just made a book debut ...

YOU HAVE THE BEST-SELLING BOOK OF ALL TIME—THE BIBLE.

HE HIDES HIS JOURNAL AND ALL HIS LETTERS LIKE HE WOULD THE DEATH NOTE.

Whoa, you're actually capable of shouting that loud?!

Just a— Peter! My journal is in there!!!

His mixi and Twitter are locked, too.

...OF KEEPING ALL HIS WRITING TO HIM-SELF.

I'M SORRY! I'LL NEVER MENTION IT AGAIN!

ABANDON HOPE, ALL YE WHO ENTER HERE

I miss it there...

HE STARES AT THE GATE TO HELL EVERYDAY, AND SAYS, "I WISH I COULD CRAWL INTO A HOLE AND DISAPPEAR."

NOW THAT THAT'S BEEN EXPOSED TO THE WORLD,

YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT JUST FOR THAT.

BUT THE COVER'S JUST GONNA BE THE ONE LINE DRAWING, RIGHT?

HE TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE "BUSINESS EXPENSE" THING...

人生は苦だ

OH! SO YOU *ARE* GOING TO FIX IT, THEN!

I'M GOING TO DRAW A BONUS MANGA, AND FIX UP THE PLACES THAT I THINK NEEDED WORK.

OH. YEAH. TO WORK ON THE BOOK.

ANY-WAY...

YOU BOUGHT A LOT OF ART SUPPLIES AT THE BOOK-STORE.

NO, WHEN IT COMES TO CHARACTERS FACES, I THINK THEY ARE THE EPITOME OF THE IMPERMA-NENCE OF ALL THINGS!

ANANDA'S FACE IN THE FIRST CHAPTERS ...

...LOOKS NOTHING LIKE IT DOES NOW.

WHAT? SO ALL YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS THE BONUS MANGA?

AND THAT ENDED UP AFFECTING MY ART STYLE.

I WANT TO DEBUT THE SERIES ON EARTH, SO I WAS WATCHING SOME LATE-NIGHT ANIME,

HUH? BUDDHA? I JUST HEARD YOUR ASCETIC SWITCH FLIP.

CLICK

THE BONUS MANGA IS JUST GONNA BE, LIKE, THREE PAGES, RIGHT?

SO EVEN WITH THE COVER, IT'LL BE PRETTY EASY!

NO...? TEN?

WHAT? 15?! WHAT?!

WHAT ?!

... EIGHT?

...WAIT. HOW MANY PAGES *ARE* YOU GOING TO DRAW?

FORTY PAGES...

DRAW

DRAW

DRAW

F...

THE DEAD-LINE IS IN THREE DAYS.

AND HE SAYS HE HASN'T FINISHED THE FIRST DRAFT!!

...

AT THIS POINT, IT DOESN'T REALLY COUNT AS "BONUS" ANYMORE!

BUT...BUT THEY CAN'T MAKE YOU DO THAT! CAN THEY?! I MEAN, IT'S USUALLY LIKE SIX PAGES!!

HNNGH, HE NEEDS HELP SO BADLY, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!!

HM...?

WAIT, MAYBE THERE IS SOME-THING...

THMP

HE ALWAYS MEDITATES WHEN HE NEEDS TO GET IDEAS...

...BUT HE'S NEVER SHUT HIMSELF UP IN THE CLOSET BEFORE!!

OH! I HAVE COFFEE...

JESUS, MY FRIEND. I'M GOING TO GO BRAINSTORM IDEAS.

CLATTER CLATTER

NO? THAT'S OKAY. I UNDER-STAND.

YEAH! I LIKE MAKING UP STORIES!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ALL 40 PAGES! EVEN IF I ONLY GET 10!

ASSISTANTS DRAW BONUS MANGA ALL THE TIME!

I ASKED MY ASSISTANT A-KUN TO DRAW THIS BONUS MANGA

hi there

OF COURSE! I CAN DRAW IT!!

ゴ RUB ゾ

RUB ゴ ゾ

ゴ RUB ゾ

FSH ゾ

AND I CAN DRAW...

ゾ FSH

I CAN STILL FIND A WAY...

...IT'S OKAY.

SWOOOO

SO IT'S 40 PAGES. SO WHAT?

WHERE ARE YOU...? COME NOW, DON'T BE AFRAID...

人生はま

...WHERE...

THERE IS A WAY, SOME-WHERE...

WHERE ARE YOU?!

IDEA!

OH, IDEA!

I UNDERSTAND. THIS IS MAGNIFICENT.

I THINK I CAN DIVE EVEN DEEPER TODAY.

HA HA...HA! OF COURSE. ALL IDEAS BEGAN AS ONE.

NO, ARE YOU?

ARE YOU MY IDEA?

HMM, I HAVE NO CHOICE.

...YOUR DEADLINE IS TODAY.

MY SACRED TREASURE!!

DING DONG ドンゴーン

SENSEI!

DING DOOONG ドーン

DING DOOONG ドーン

SIDDHARTHA-SENSEI!

SHINING BRILLIANTLY IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE IDEAS...

...I'LL FIND THE TRUE PUNCHLINE!!

THE WOMAN MATSUDA-SAMA, WHO IS TASKED WITH THE GUARDIAN-SHIP OF THIS HOLY LAND...

BAM

YES, EXCUSE ME. IT'S BRAHMA FROM THE HEAVENLY OFFICE!!

RATTLE

RATTLE

...HAS ENTRUSTED ME WITH THIS KEY TO YOUR APART-MENT...

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

OH, MY. THIS DOES LOOK HELLISH.

...OH... BRAHMA-SAN. I'M SORRY.

BUDDHA IS MEDITATING SO DEEPLY RIGHT NOW THAT I CAN'T WAKE HIM UP.

SO I THOUGHT I'D DRAW THE MANGA IN HIS PLACE...

HMMM, SIDD-HARTHA DOES SHINE BRIGHTEST WHEN HE'S UNDER PRESSURE.

人生はまである

BUT PERHAPS I'VE OVER-DONE IT A BIT.

ALL RIGHT, JESUS-SAMA, WHAT KIND OF MANGA ARE YOU DRAWING THERE?

YEAH YOU DID!! 40 PAGES IS INSANE...

PAT

I'LL TAKE IT!

HE JUST TEARS DOWN EVERY WALL IN HIS PATH, DOESN'T HE?

SO... BRAHMA-SAN...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ACTUALLY PRINTED SANDALPHON AND METATRON...

NO, I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO APOLO-GIZE...

It did help me come up with a really great punchline, but...

I'M SORRY, JESUS. I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS MEDI-TATING THAT DEEPLY.

SHIRT: RIGHT SIDE

I MEAN IT...

I'm sorry. That's why you can only see my feet.

I'm bigger than Hell itself.

I am the angel Sandalphon

I'm stressed I'm supposed to about determine genders for babies.

You look unhappy.

O Little Brother

Oh! That's my brother Metatron's big toe. He's even bigger than me.

It's such an easy job, it's always the

GOOD...

N-NO, IT'S KIND OF... REALLY EPIC. I THINK IT'S REALLY...

FLIP

SHIRT: JOSHUA

SO I THOUGHT, IF NOTHING ELSE, I COULD DRAW FEET!!

WHEN I WASHED MY APOSTLES' FEET, I STARED AT 12 PAIRS OF FEET.

IT'S... HOW DO I SAY THIS? ORIGINAL?

...Um, Jesus. This drawing...
Yeah! It's the best I've ever drawn them!!

CHAPTER 42 TRANSLATION NOTES

Journey to the West,

Journey to the West is a famous novel from the 16th century inspireed by the tale of Xuanzang, a Buddhist priest who travels to the West to obtain sacred Buddhist texts. The story starts by telling about Sun Wukong, the Monkey King, and the mischief that he wrought in the Heavens. Wukong's victims enlist the help of the Buddha in subduing this troublemaker, so Buddha makes a bet with the Monkey, wins the best, and imprisons Sun Wukong in a mountain for centuries.

Arimathea,

Joseph of Arimathea is the man assumed responsibility for the body of Jesus after the crucifixion. He is so named because he came from Arimathea, a city of Judea.

Morning 2,

This is the magazine in Japan where *Saint Young Men* was originally serialized.

Adam,

This story is told in the Bible as follows: "And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." (Genesis 2:19)

Shigesato Itoi,

Shigesato Itoi is a Japanese copywriter, game designer, and actor, among his many other credits. He has been writing copy since the 1980s, and is known in the US for designing the Super Ninterndo game *EarthBound.*

The Gospel of Judas,

The Gospel of Judas was translated from a papyrus scroll that was found in Egypt in the 1970s and eventually translated in the early 2000s. The scroll has been carbon-dated to around 280 AD, and is believed to be a Coptic translation of an earlier Greek text which describes Judas as Jesus's favorite disciple, having done what he did in accordance with instructions from Jesus himself.

Sandalphon and Metatron,

Sandalphon is known as the Tall Angel, because he's so tall, it would take 500 years to walk the distance that is the length of his body. His is seen as the protector of unborn children, and the one who assigns gender. His brother Metatron is the greatest of all angels.

WHILE NOT YET POPULAR ENOUGH IN JAPAN TO BE CELEBRATED BY THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD...

OCTOBER 31, HALLOW-EEN.

TRICK OR TREAT!!

...IT IS BIG ENOUGH FOR SUPERMARKETS AND DEPART-MENT STORES TO BE FULLY DECKED OUT IN HALLOWEEN DECOR.

SHIRT: TRICK OR ALMS

WA HA HA! YES, I'M DRACULA! GIVE ME CANDY!
GET HIM!!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?! I KNOW! ARE YOU DRACULA?!
STOP THAT, JESUS. THOSE BOYS DON'T KNOW ABOUT HALLOWEEN!

SORRY, YOU'RE REMINDING HIM OF WORK. COULD YOU PLEASE PUT THAT AWAY?

I'M WONDERING IF THIS IS REALLY THE TIME TO BE DRESSING LIKE A DEVIL AND GOOFING OFF.

SAINT YOUNG MEN

Chapter 17

Halloween, Nanking, Pumpkin!

BUDDHA: RECENT HAPPY THING: FOUND A GROCERY STORE WITH PRODUCE SLIGHTLY CHEAPER THAN THE NORMAL PLACE.

AND YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE LOTTERY !!

COME TO ANY OF OUR STORES IN COSTUME FOR 20% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE!!

20%OFF!!

LOWEEN FAIR

Come in costume for 20%OFF

HALLOWEEN

THIS WAY TO THE HUSTLE SHOPPING STREET HALLOWEEN FAIR CHANGING ROOMS!

JESUS: RECENT HAPPY THING: MORE PEOPLE ARE POSTING LINKS TO HIS BLOG ON TWITTER.

OH, LOOK, THE DRESSING ROOM'S OPEN NOW.

YEAH, BUT I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO MAKE IT...

THIS IS WHY I TOLD YOU TO GET DRESSED AFTER WE GOT HERE...

...ARE YOU OKAY? YOUR FACE IS SO PALE...

トリック

20%

B-BUT I GOT THE CHEAPEST CLOTH THEY HAD!

ANYWAY, BUDDHA.

It's real flimsy...

GLARE

WHY WOULD YOU SPEND *MORE* MONEY TO GET A DISCOUNT ?!

AND YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BOUGHT FABRIC FOR YOUR CAPE...

WOW, QUICK CHANGE ...

KA-POP

NO, THAT'S OKAY. THIS WILL JUST TAKE A SECOND...

HE'S RADIATING AN AURA OF "I'M ONLY HERE FOR THE 20% DISCOUNT"...

UNCOMFORTABLE? HA HA HA, YOU ARE WEARING THE MOST POWERFUL ARMOR.

Was this an event for moms with kids...?!

I'M LOOKING AROUND, AND I THINK I'M ONLY SEEING KIDS IN COSTUMES...

SUDDENLY I'M FEELING REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE!

FAIR 20%OFF

AHH! BE CAREFUL, YOUR FACE IS GETTING KIND OF CLOSE TO THE DARK SIDE!!

COME WITH ME! WHERE SHALL WE SHOP FIRST?!

NO, EVEN THE *BOOK-STORE* WILL GIVE US 20% OFF!!

WE JUST HAVE TO WEAR THESE,

AND EVEN THE BAKERY THAT *NEVER* GIVES DISCOUNTS —

LUCIFER: FALLEN ANGEL WHO WAS CAST OUT OF THE HEAVENS. RECENT HAPPY THING: FOUND SOME REALLY COMFORT-ABLE BOOTS, AND CAN NOW WANDER AROUND WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT HIS FEET.

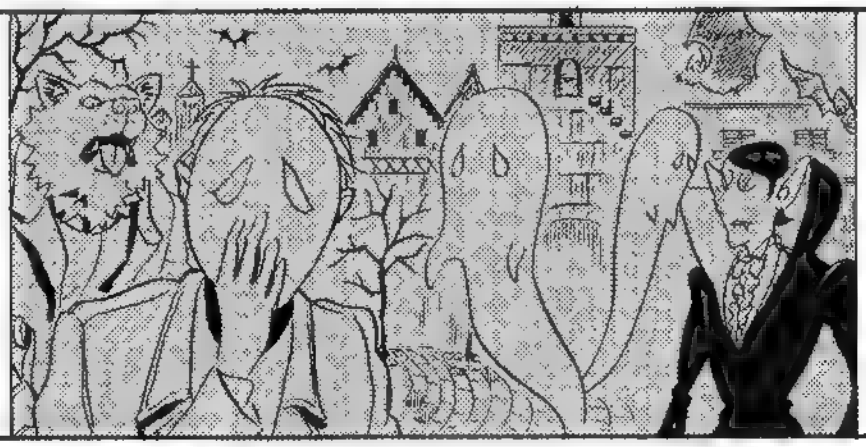
OH, BUT I DID HEAR AN EXPLANATION.

I DUNNO, IT'S NOT REALLY MY FAITH'S CELEBRATION ...

BUT I WONDER ...

WHY DO PEOPLE DRESS UP LIKE MONSTERS ON HALLOWEEN?

SO PEOPLE DRESS IN MONSTER DISGUISES AND PRETEND TO BE MONSTERS SO THE OTHER GUYS WILL LEAVE THEM ALONE.



THIS IS THE DAY THAT DEMONS AND THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WANDER AROUND THE MORTAL REALM.

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT WHATEVER WE DO, WE CAN'T FOLLOW THEM...

WANDER

WANDER

WANDER

WANDER

OH, SO IT'S LIKE OBON...

THEN SOME OF THESE PEOPLE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE DEMONS.

HIRAKI
MARKET
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT HIS WINGS ARE FULLY OPEN, SO IT *MIGHT* BE COSPLAY...
OR JUST SOME GLAM ROCK DUDE THAT LOOKS A LOT LIKE HIM?
...HEY, DO YOU THINK THAT'S REALLY HIM?
GOOD PRICE
53 WANDER
...
RICE
PRICE
WANDER 53
LOOK! HE MADE A KID CRY!
THAT'S REALLY MEAN! MAYBE IT *IS* LUCIFER!!
PRN
OH! BUT WHEN PEOPLE ASK FOR PICTURES, HE IMMEDIATELY REFUSES!
HALLOWEEN FAIR
HALLOWEEN
OH, BUT HE'S SCARFING IT DOWN, SO THEY'RE STILL HAPPY...
HEY! THOSE OLD LADIES GAVE HIM CANDY AND HE DIDN'T SAY THANK YOU!!
NO, WAIT... WHEN WE SEE HOW HE REACTS TO THE PRIZE—*THEN* WE'LL KNOW IF IT'S REALLY HIM.
THEN WE'LL KNOW IF HE *IS* THE DEVIL!!
GOOD PRI
ISE
I THINK ONLY THE DEVIL COULD HAVE THAT KIND OF LUCK!
CONGRATU-LATIONS! YOU WON FIRST PRIZE! YOU GET A MACBOOK AIR!!
JANGLE
ガラン
ガラン
JANGLE
LOOK! HE'S DOING THE COSTUME LOTTERY ...
WHAT! THAT'S AMAZING !!

NO THANKS. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

WHAT...? IS THIS THAT "INTERNET" THING?

WHAT? I DON'T GET IT. WHY DON'T I JUST GO SEE THEM IN PERSON?

OH, OR YOU COULD WRITE A BLOG, OR CHECK IN ON YOUR FRIENDS...

Tissue

NO, I MEANT *VIDEO* GAMES...

WHAT? I CAN USE IT FOR FUTSAL?

IT HAS REALLY GOOD SPECS. YOU COULD USE IT FOR GAMING!

*ACTUALLY, SEEING YOU GET HURT THAT BADLY OVER THAT REACTION MAKES ME START TO DOUBT IF **YOU'RE** A REAL SAINT!*

HE ***MUST*** BE THE REAL THING.

...SEE? IF HE'S HURTING MY FEELINGS THIS BADLY...

Heh heh...!!

...TO SPEND IT ALL ON A STARING CONTEST WITH THAT THING.

MY TIME IS VERY PRECIOUS TO ME, AND IT WOULD BE A ***HUGE*** WASTE...

HUH?! WHAT?! WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?!

Calm down!

IF ANYONE SHOULD WRITE A BLOG, IT'S YOU!!

YOU KNOW EVERYBODY'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU, ALWAYS WANDERING AROUND WHO-KNOWS-WHERE!

And put those wings away!!

COME ON, JUST TAKE THE DARN PRIZE, LUCIFER!!

SHIRT: ALL SAINTS DAY

THEN WHY ARE YOU SO...

...OH...

S-SORRY. WE MAY NOT LOOK IT NOW, BUT WE'RE A GOD AND A BUDDHA!!

HUH?!

WAH

AND BEFORE YOU THROW IT BACK IN HER FACE, WHY DON'T YOU THINK OF THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE ***HAPPY*** TO WIN THAT PRIZE?!

LIKE ME, FOR EXAMPLE!!

WHAT ?!

...BUT IT JUST TAKES GETTING USED TO, LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE.

WELL, IT'LL BE HARD AT FIRST...

I GET IT... I MEAN, OF COURSE...

ARE YOU STUPID?!

WHAT?! COSTUMES? IS BUSINESS THAT SLOW IN THE HEAVENS?!

I ACTUALLY MADE THE DEVIL TAKE PITY ON ME...

N-NO, UM, THE THING IS, WE'RE ON PAID VACATION RIGHT NOW, SO, UH...

NO, IT'S OKAY. WE HAVEN'T FALLEN FROM HEAVEN!

SO WHAT CIRCLE OF HELL ARE YOU IN?? IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED HELP WITH, JUST LET ME KNOW.

SO I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THIS GUY.

TACHIKAWA

I-I WON'T LET YOU...

HELLO? THAT'S MY JOB?

I'M WORKING MY ASS OFF.

YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO DRAG SOMEONE DOWN TO HELL, ARE YOU?

WH-WHAT ABOUT *YOU?* WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?!

I don't need to take this from a guy who's in full-on vacation mode.

HUH...?

HUH?

AREN'T YOU?

HE'S FAMOUS ENOUGH, I THINK EVEN YOU KNOW HIM.

HUH?

INTRO-DUCE ...?

H... H... HEY...

HE WAS JUST BUYING A PUMPKIN BEFORE HEADING TO YOUR PLACE.

YOU CAN'T INTRODUCE ME BEFORE I'M READY— YOU'RE RUINING MY IMAGE!

WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT DO THAT, LUCIFER-SAN!

HERE HE IS! THE GUY...

...BEHIND THE FAMOUS JACK O' LANTERN!

UH, UH, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO RUSH LIKE THAT!!

EXCUSE ME!! I'M JUST PUTTING MY HEAD ON— PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT ME YET.

SERIOUSLY, ***DON'T*** DO THAT, YOU EVIL FIEND!!!

CARVE CARVE CARVE

Sorry.

I'VE BEEN THE GUY WITH THE PUMPKIN HEAD FOR CENTURIES, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!!

I'M FINE... IT'S JUST THAT I CAN'T GO AT 100% WITHOUT MY HEAD ON.

HUFF HUFF

ARE...ARE YOU OKAY? THERE'S STILL SWEAT AND STUFF COMING FROM IN THERE...

30 MIN-UTES LATER ...

BUT THAT'S IMPRESSIVE, TRICKING PETER WITH CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS...

WOW, YOU ***ARE*** BAD!!

YEAH, I DIDN'T ACTUALLY THINK IT WOULD WORK...

I WAS JUST SO DAMN DESPERATE.

トリック

I-IS HE WITH YOU GUYS, THEN?

THIS GUY WAS ***THE*** MOST EVIL PERSON, AND WAS ON HIS WAY TO HELL.

BUT WOW. SO YOU'RE JACK-KUN.

WHEN HE DIED AGAIN, PETER WAS SO MAD THAT HE WOULDN'T LET HIM GO TO HELL, EITHER.

Hey! You weren't sorry at all!!

BUT HE'S SUCH A SMOOTH TALKER, HE MANAGED TO TRICK PETER INTO LETTING HIM GO BACK TO LIFE.

AND I JUST TOLD IT SHORT AND SWEET...

...ABOUT A GIRLFRIEND WITH AN INCURABLE DISEASE... ABOUT ME WORKING HARD TO FOLLOW MY DREAMS...

I CAME UP WITH THIS SOB STORY...

I MEAN...

TO BE HONEST, IT FREAKED *ME* OUT...

PETER-SAN WAS BAWLING ...

PETER LOVES CELL PHONE NOVELS.

WELL, YEAH, THERE'S NO DENYING THAT!

SAINTS ALL HAVE LOW THRESHOLDS FOR EVERY-THING, DON'T THEY?

HMMM, I DUNNO...

I'LL GO TO HELL— JUST PUT ME *SOME-WHERE!!*

IT'S REALLY HARD BEING DENIED BY BOTH HEAVEN *AND* HELL!!

NNGH, BUT I'M REALLY SORRY NOW...

HMM, WELL, I'LL CALL PETER AND SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

IT WOULD BE A LOT BETTER THAN THE LUKEWARM LIFE I'M LIVING NOW!!

Trust me!

IT'LL BE FINE! I'LL CHEW HIM TO ITTY BITTY BITS IN HELL!

YEEE-AAAHHH!!! HAPPY HALLOW-EEN!!!

OH... H-HAPPY HALLOW-EEN...

OH, HELLO THERE! WHAT'S UP, SENSEI?

BUT PETER-SAN'S A NICE GUY. I'M SURE HE'S NOT MAD ANYMORE!

THAT'S HILARIOUS! YOU'RE SO REJECTED!

TH...THANKS SO MUCH!! THE ALLIANCE NEVER ANSWERS MY CALLS ANYMORE.

BRRRRING

GOOD! LOOKS LIKE HALLOWEEN IS AN OKAY TOPIC!

HA HA...

I DON'T NEED ANY CANDY— JUST GIVE ME INDUL-GENCES!

SO, UM, HEY. ACTUALLY, I'M HERE WITH THE JACK—YOU KNOW, THE HALLOWEEN JACK—AND HE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU...

WHAT DOES HE WANT?

...

THIS IS THE TONE OF VOICE HE USED WHEN THEY ARRESTED ME, AND HE GOT SO MAD HE SLICED A GUY'S EAR OFF.

UH, THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.

I-I DID NOTHING OF THE SORT.

IN FACT, I HAVE BEEN DOING MY SMALL PART TO ATONE...

I wanted him to know I'd had a change of heart...

HUH...? YOUR SMALL PART? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?

HE'S A LOT MORE MELLOW NOW, BUT BACK THEN, HE WAS ALL FIGHT FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER!!

NOD

HE DOES HE DOES HE DOES HE DOES!

...HIS EAR?! WHAT?! PETER-SAN GETS THAT MAD?!

DID YOU DO SOMETHING RECENTLY THAT WOULD HAVE FANNED THE FLAMES?!

ANYWAY, JACK, IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S STILL AS MAD AS EVER...

Oh... right...

THESE DAYS... WELL, YOU KNOW. HE RELIEVES STRESS IN VIRTUAL WORLDS LIKE *DAEMON HUNTER*...

WHAT?!

AND I GO TO WATER PETER-SAN'S CROPS EVERY DAY!!

RAINBOW FARM

JACK @ PUMPKIN

PETER'S FARM

ON MIXI... THERE'S A SOCIAL GAME CALLED *RAINBOW FARM*...

...

PETER-SAN IS A BUSY MAN, YOU KNOW? SO NOW ALL HE HAS TO DO IS HARVEST HIS CROPS.

RAINBOW FARM

I JUST WANT TO HELP HIM IN A WAY THAT'S NOT TOO PUSHY, AND DOESN'T MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I'M LOOKING FOR FAVORS.

OH, TOO LATE. HE JUST OPENED UP HIS MIXI SETTINGS PAGE.

HE'S ALREADY BANNED HIM FROM HEAVEN AND HELL...

IS...IS PETER OKAY?

HEY, I TOOK THE PHONE. THIS IS ANDREW.

I DON'T THINK SO. THIS HAS REALLY BEEN BOTHERING HIM.

WAIT, BROTHER! SAINTS AREN'T SUP-POSED TO TALK LIKE THAT!!

I WANT TO DO THAT STUFF MYSELF !!!

BUT HE JUST BLOCKED JACK @LANTERN.

SO HE WAS TRYING TO PUT UP WITH IT—HE FIGURED HE COULD AT LEAST LET HIM VISIT HIS MIXI PAGE.

YOU KNOW...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

HE HAS A TEAM? HE REALLY IS A HEALTH-CONSCIOUS BAD BOY ANGEL.

BESIDES, LUCIFER SAID HE'D LET HIM INTO THE DEVILS' FUTSAL GROUP...

I KNOW, RIGHT? HE WAS THE CHIEF ANGEL, AFTER ALL.

HE'S MORE RELIABLE THAN YOU'D THINK.

BUT LUCIFER-KUN SURE DOES TAKE CARE OF HIS OWN.

I KINDA FELT BAD FOR JACK...

HMMM...YEAH, BUT HE'S DONE SO MANY BAD THINGS, IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.

OH!

SPEAK OF THE *DEVIL*, IT'S MICHAEL.

BEEP

TRALA LA LA TRALA LA LA TRALA...

YEAH. I THINK I CAN SEE...

...WHY MICHAEL-SAN STILL LOVES HIS BIG BROTHER SO MUCH.

ER, WHOA! IS THIS OKAY?

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

DING-ALING

A HALLOWEEN TEXT...

?!

MY BELOVED SON...

FLAP! FLAP! FLAP!

ACK! DAD! THIS IS JUST FOR FUN! FOR HALLOWEEN!

HEH HEH.

I'LL TEXT HIM TO WARN HIM NOT TO SHOW DAD...

CLICK CLICK CLICK

WELL, YOU KNOW, IN THAT CASE, *YOU*...

OH, YOU KNOW, IT'S LIKE A MIDDLE SCHOOL KID WANTING TO BE LIKE HIS FAVORITE BAND, SO...

I GET THE FEELING HIS ADMIRA-TION FOR FALLEN ANGELS IS GETTING STRONGER ...

Is that safe...?

BUT HE MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE IF DAD SEES THIS.

...OR BRING ME HATO SABLÉ. WHAT'LL IT BE?

TRICK...

A TRICK? WHAT KIND OF TRICK?

HUH ...?

WHAT'LL IT BE?

...A RAVEN ...?

HEADERING A PUMPKIN.

PEOPLE SAID THEY WOULD SEE JACK OF THE LANTERN

FROM THAT DAY ON...

PLEASE DON'T! I'LL BUY YOU SOME RIGHT NOW!!

OH, YOU KNOW. THE KIND THAT INVOLVES WATER.

...I think that bag would survive getting hit by a car.
NERVOUS
NERVOUS
STARE

CHAPTER 43 TRANSLATION NOTES

Halloween Fair changing rooms,
It's generally frowned upon in Japan to walk around in costume outside of cosplay/event venues. For this reason, event venues often set aside changing rooms so that attendees can change into costumes after their arrival.

Halloween,
While the name Halloween comes from All Hallows Eve, meaning "the evening before All Saints Day" (a Christian observance), the traditions associated with it come from the Celtic festival Samhain, which was a New Year's festival. On this night, the boundary between the world and the Otherworld—the realm of the supernatural—thinned.

All Saints Day,
All Saints Day is a day dedicated to all saints.

Cell phone novels,
As the name suggests, a cell phone novel is a novel written via cell phone. Because of the way Japanese writing works, it is possible to fit a fair amount of information into a text message even with character limitations. The main genres are fantasy and romance.

Sliced a guy's ear off,
As per John's account of Jesus's arrest: "Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear," (John 18:10).

SAINT☆YOUNG MEN

KAMOME SHIRAHAMA

Witch Hat Atelier

A magical manga adventure for fans of Disney and Studio Ghibli!

Witch Hat Atelier © Kamome Shirahama/Kodansha Ltd

The magical adventure that took Japan by storm is finally here, from acclaimed DC and Marvel cover artist Kamome Shirahama!

In a world where everyone takes wonders like magic spells and dragons for granted, Coco is a girl with a simple dream: She wants to be a witch. But everybody knows magicians are born, not made, and Coco was not born with a gift for magic. Resigned to her un-magical life, Coco is about to give up on her dream to become a witch…until the day she meets Qifrey, a mysterious, traveling magician. After secretly seeing Qifrey perform magic in a way she's never seen before, Coco soon learns what everybody "knows" might not be the truth, and discovers that her magical dream may not be as far away as it may seem…

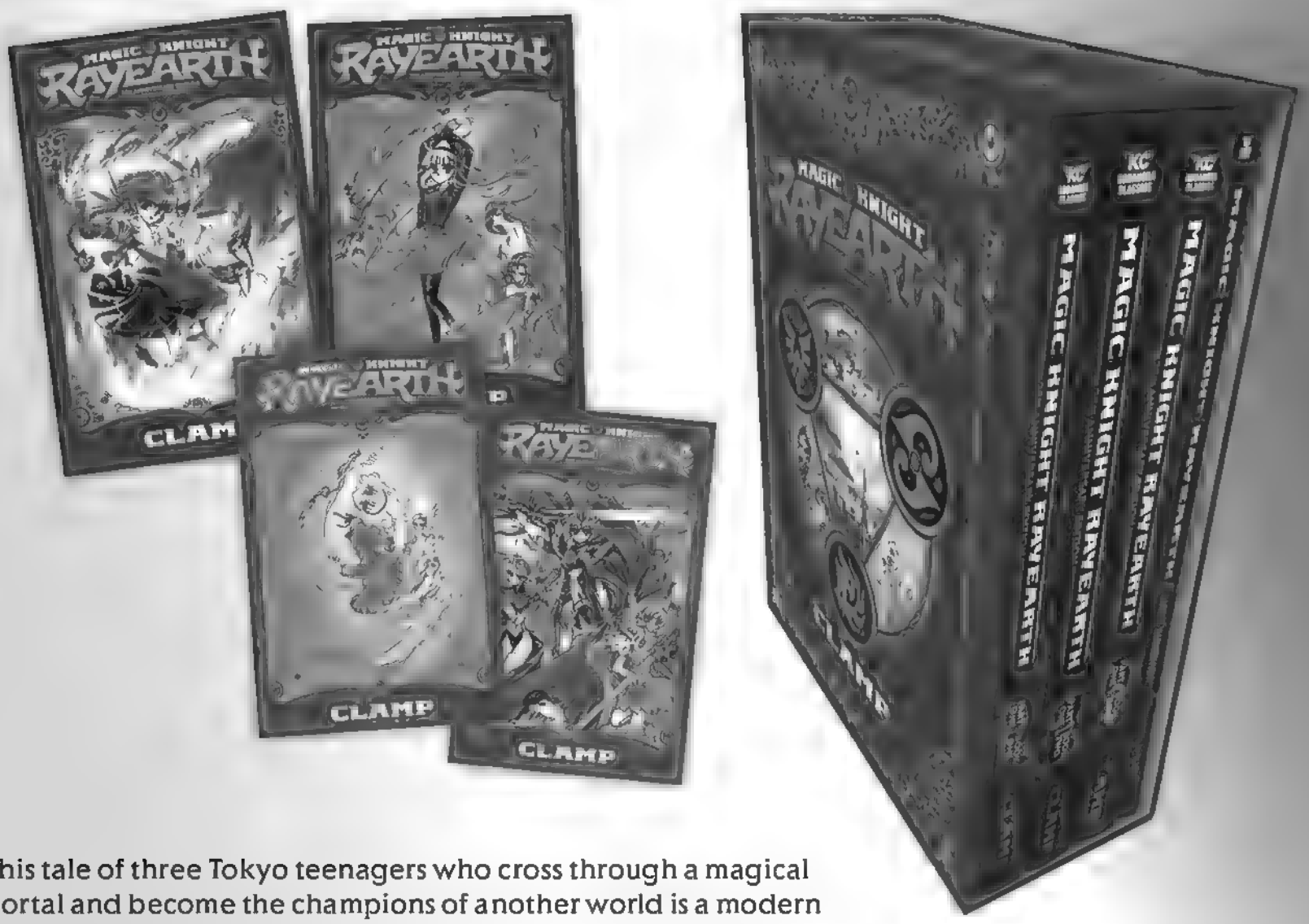
KC KODANSHA COMICS

MAGIC KNIGHT RAYEARTH

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CLAMP

A BELOVED CLASSIC MAKES ITS STUNNING RETURN IN THIS GORGEOUS, LIMITED EDITION BOX SET!



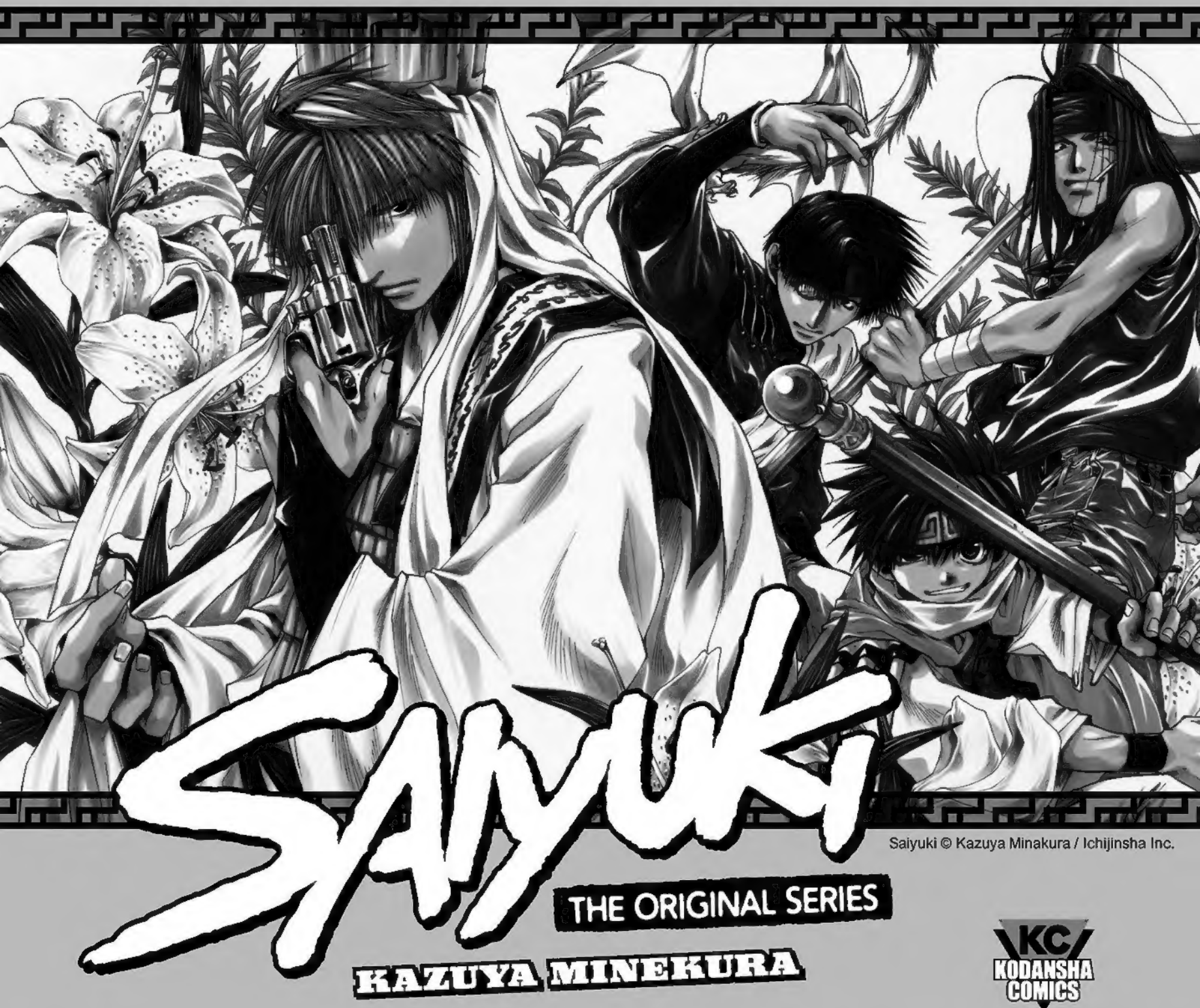
This tale of three Tokyo teenagers who cross through a magical portal and become the champions of another world is a modern manga classic. The box set includes three volumes of manga covering the entire first series of *Magic Knight Rayearth*, plus the series's super-rare full-color art book companion, all printed at a larger size than ever before on premium paper, featuring a newly-revised translation and lettering, and exquisite foil-stamped covers.

A strictly limited edition, this will be gone in a flash!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Magic Knight Rayearth 25th Anniversary Manga Box Set 1 © CLAMP ShigatsuTsuitachi CO ,LTD./Kodansha Ltd

The boys are back, in 400-page hardcovers that are as pretty and badass as they are!



Saiyuki © Kazuya Minakura / Ichijinsha Inc.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

"AN EDGY COMIC LOOK AT AN ANCIENT CHINESE TALE." —YALSA

Genjo Sanzo is a Buddhist priest in the city of Togenkyo, which is being ravaged by yokai spirits that have fallen out of balance with the natural order. His superiors send him on a journey far to the west to discover why this is happening and how to stop it. His companions are three yokai with human souls. But this is no day trip — the four will encounter many discoveries and horrors on the way.

FEATURES NEW TRANSLATION, COLOR PAGES, AND BEAUTIFUL WRAPAROUND COVER ART!

PERFECT WORLD

Rie Aruga

An office party reunites Tsugumi with her high school crush Itsuki. He's realized his dream of becoming an architect, but along the way, he experienced a spinal injury that put him in a wheelchair. Now Tsugumi's rekindled feelings will butt up against prejudices she never considered — and Itsuki will have to decide if he's ready to let someone into his heart...

"Depicts with great delicacy and courage the difficulties some with disabilities experience getting involved in romantic relationships... Rie Aruga refuses to romanticize, pushing her heroine to face the reality of disability. She invites her readers to the same tasks of empathy, knowledge and recognition."
—Slate.fr

"An important entry [in manga romance]... The emotional core of both plot and characters indicates thoughtfulness... [Aruga's] research is readily apparent in the text and artwork, making this feel like a real story."
—Anime News Network

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Perfect World © Rie Aruga/Kodansha Ltd.

The adorable new odd-couple cat comedy manga from the creator of the beloved *Chi's Sweet Home*, in full color!

Praise for *Chi's Sweet Home*

"Nearly impossible to turn away... a true all-ages title that anyone, young or old, cat lover or not, will enjoy. The stories will bring a smile to your face and warm your heart."

—School Library Journal

Sue & Tai-chan

Konami Kanata

Sue is an aging housecat who's looking forward to living out her life in peace... but her plans change when the mischievous black tomcat Tai-chan enters the picture! Hey! Sue never signed up to be a catsitter! *Sue & Tai-chan* is the latest from the reigning meow-narch of cute kitty comics, Konami Kanata.

Sue & Tai-chan © Konami Kanata/Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Saint Young Men 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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